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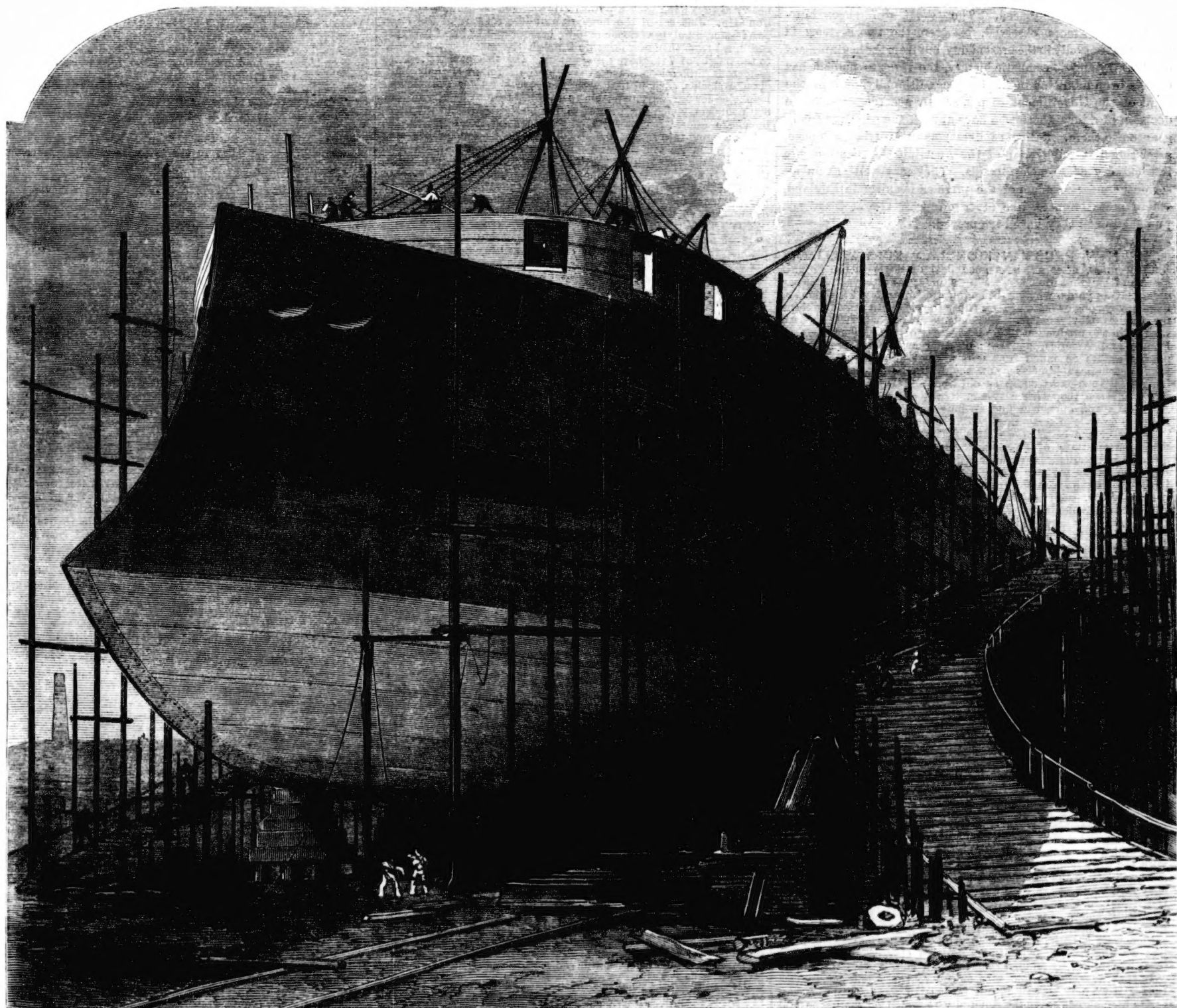
AT HOME AND ABROAD.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA does not, it appears, intend in future to limit her sphere of activity and usefulness to literature alone. In addition to Receptions for members of the Diplomatic Body and other official personages, it is announced that the Queen will, this season, hold three regular Drawingrooms, at which presentations will be made to her Majesty in person, and not, as last year, to a Princess acting as her Majesty's representative. It was time; for England is still a monarchy, and the functions of the Monarch, even those of a purely ceremonial kind, ought scarcely to be allowed to fall into abeyance. As long as things go on as quietly and prosperously in England as they have done for the last half century, it does not, at first sight, seem a matter of very great importance whether the Queen makes her presence felt among her subjects or not. For a time we could do without a Sovereign, as for a time we might, no doubt, do without a House of Lords or a House of Commons, or both. In fact, during that considerable portion

of the year which is not enlivened by the sittings and debates of Parliament at all, the country, left solely to the guidance of the Administration, seems, somehow or other, to get on. Like a swimmer in good condition and under favourable circumstances, England can maintain herself easily with only one hand, or with only one leg; though for a continuance it would be better for her, all the same, to have the whole of her members at command and to depend upon them all jointly for support. All sorts of theories, more or less contradictory, exist on the subject of the British Constitution. According to some writers, England has never ceased to be a monarchy in which the governing power, however much controlled, resides chiefly in the Crown. Others regard it as an aristocracy, in virtue of the fact that of the two great bodies by which not only the laws of the country are made but by which, moreover, its policy is directed, one is exclusively aristocratic, and the other aristocratic in a great measure. It may also be fairly argued that England is a democracy, it being a principle of general acceptance that the people are "the source of all

legitimate power." But whichever of these theories of the Constitution as it ought to be, or views of the Constitution as it actually exists, be true, it will be admitted on all hands that the Crown, in our balance of powers, has an important, if not an all-important part assigned to it, and that this part has, of late years, been, we will not say neglected, but incompletely filled. The present year is unfortunately one in which it is especially desirable that the dignity of the Crown should be asserted as fully as possible. Not that the loyalty of her Majesty's subjects, in Great Britain at least, needs stimulating; but it may be remembered, all the same, that loyalty is a feeling of love and reverence not for an abstract principle but for a living being.

The two most interesting foreign topics of the moment are the debate on liberty, and especially liberty of the press, in France, in which the chief orator—who, indeed, forced the subject into prominence—was that veteran constitutionalist, M. Thiers; and the publication of a long and very full study of German affairs by the Count of Paris. The Orleanists,



THE PRUSSIAN IRONCLAD KING WILLIAM, NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED AT THE THAMES IRONWORKS.

then, are once more coming forward; and, whatever Louis Philippe's Minister and Louis Philippe's heir may say on the subject of the domestic condition and foreign relations of France, many persons will see in their utterances nothing more than a bid for place and power. As English Whigs are Radicals when they are out of office, so the Orleanists of France are thorough-going Liberals when the government of the country is not in their hands. Nevertheless, the rule of Louis Philippe, with all its faults, was far from being despotic; and the art and literature of France flourished under his reign as they have flourished under none other since the time of Louis XIV.

Whenever the question of liberty of the press, and the extent to which that liberty should be carried, is discussed in France, the example of England is sure to be cited. A very instructive example it is, if fairly considered, but a very deceptive one, if deliberately presented, for Imperial and despotic purposes, in a false light. Laws still exist in England by which all sorts of supposed offences on the part of the press are punishable with more or less severity. Reporters, by the strict letter of the law, have no right to take notes of Parliamentary debates; still less have newspaper proprietors the right of publishing them. In France, on the other hand, newspapers are allowed by law to print long, detailed accounts of the debates in the Corps Législatif. But it so happens that in England, in spite of the obsolete but unrepealed law on the subject, the fullest possible reports of all Parliamentary proceedings are printed from day to day, and that every facility is given by the authorities of the Houses of Lords and Commons to the journalists intrusted with the duty of preparing them; whereas in France no one can venture to publish any independent account (however exact) of the discussions in the Senate and Legislative Body without drawing upon himself prompt and severe punishment. The Government furnishes to every newspaper its own story of its own debates, and the unhappy newspaper must accept what is given to it by authority, or say nothing.

M. Thiers, then, talks of the practice in England in connection with press matters, while the Government writers deal only with antiquated laws, which, as M. Thiers pointed out in his last great speech, are never acted upon. Of course, a discussion of this kind can go on for some time, without the least chance of either of the two adversaries being convinced. The great difference, however, as M. Thiers observed, between the two systems is this—that not only in the present day, but from the beginning of our literary and journalistic history, the right to publish has always been admitted in England, conditionally, only on the right of the Government to punish, in accordance with the decision of a jury, those who have abused the privilege freely granted to them. "Give us liberty as in Austria" was once, after the first publication of the Austrian Constitution, the ironical cry of French Liberals. They may well ask in all seriousness for freedom of the press as it exists in England, where press offences, like other offences, are at least not punished until they have been proved.

THE NEW PRUSSIAN IRONCLAD KING WILLIAM.

THERE must, after all, be a good deal of merit in the English system of building ironclads, when we find, year after year, that our chief private yards, whether belonging to companies or individuals, have always one or more of their slips occupied with armoured ships for foreign Governments. The only countries which keep pace with us in the production of iron frigates for the national fleet are France and America, and each of their systems of arming and plating differs as much from ours as they do from each other. Disused American ironclads, now sought to be got rid of, can be bought in America as cheap as old iron, and are worth very little more. France, too, with a system totally different both from the Americans and ours, can find no imitators either of her style of building or style of arming.

Whatever the cause, the simple fact remains—that all Governments, except those of France and America, no matter what their differences or alliances, come to England to have their iron ships built; and even the two exceptions we have mentioned copy our improvements as far as they can in every particular. Of the great private yards, such as those of Napier, at Glasgow; Laird, at Birkenhead; Samuda, at Blackwall; and the Millwall Ironworks, there is hardly any which have not built ironclads for foreign Powers; while the Thames Ironworks alone, besides building such renowned vessels as the Warrior and the Minotaur, have built iron frigates for the Russian, Prussian, Italian, Spanish, Danish, Greek, and Turkish Governments. There is more than the mere chance of patronage required to account for this. The great fame of the Warrior no doubt did much, and the fame of the John Brown armour-plates did more. But even these two causes would be insufficient to account for the almost universal preference shown for vessels of our construction, and we can only find it in the fact that by the vast majority of Powers our plan of building and backing is considered superior to what can be got anywhere else. England would hold a different position now if the nation were in possession of all the armoured vessels her private yards have sent forth to foreign Powers; but, of all the vessels ever built here, the grandest and most formidable is the King William, now just upon completion at the Thames Ironworks for the Prussian Government. The history of this magnificent frigate is rather peculiar. About three years ago the Turkish Government wished for an ironclad that should eclipse all other ironclads afloat, and be of herself a match in fair fight for almost a squadron of them. She was to be larger, stronger, faster, and, above all, to carry heavier armour and heavier armament than anything yet attempted. These difficult conditions Mr. Reed, with the consent of the Admiralty, succeeded in combining; and the vessel was begun at the Thames Ironworks, and rapidly pushed forward. Unfortunately, however, for the Turkish Government, its promises of payment kept no sort of pace with the work done, and, payment at last altogether failing, the frigate was left on the hands of the Thames Company to dispose of as they could. It was at once offered to our Admiralty at the price the Sultan had agreed to give for it. But the Admiralty, while admitting the surpassing excellence and strength of the vessel, hesitated about the purchase, required time to think about it, would rather wait a little, and so on. The Thames Company did not like waiting, and offered it to the Prussian Government, which as instantly replied by an offer to buy it at a sum considerably higher than that at which it had been offered to the Admiralty. This tender, if we may so call it, was taken; but hardly had the contracts been signed when the Admiralty appeared on the scene and wished to purchase the frigate without further delay. But it was

then too late. The agreement with the Prussian Government had been made, and there was no retracting. Thus the strongest-plated armour-ship yet built passes into the hands of a foreign Power; and we may possibly some day see her arrayed against our own frigates. Woe betide any of our vessels of the Warrior or Minotaur class which shall meet her! The Warrior carries 4½ in. armour over half her length, and is meant to bear twenty-six guns—some only 68-pounders, some 100-pounders, and four 150-pounders. The King William, which is as large as the Warrior, and is designed to have her speed, carries 8-in. armour, with a battery of twenty-six 300-pounders, all of Krupp's steel, all breech-loaders, and capable, it is said, of being fired with 75-lb. charges as often as twice in a minute.

The length of this formidable craft is 365 ft., 15 ft. shorter than the Warrior; but her breadth is 2 ft. greater, being 60 ft., against the Warrior's 58 ft. This gives her a greater midship section, and therefore enables her to bear her ponderous armour more easily by giving her a greater displacement; but on the other hand, this same displacement makes it more difficult to move her through the water at a high speed, especially as the King William is to be of 6000 tons burden, and to draw at her mean draught-load no less than 26 ft. of water. The engines, however, will be fully equal to their work. They are being made by Messrs. Maudslay, and are to be of 1150-horse power nominal, and capable of working up to a power of 7000 horses. With this power, and guided by the ordinary calculations, it is believed she will realise from thirteen to fourteen knots an hour. There will be no less than forty furnaces required to keep her going at full speed, and these will use rather more than eighty tons of coal a day, and her coal bunkers only hold 700 tons. In this respect she is certainly inferior to our Warrior class of ships, which only use sixty-five tons a day, and can carry 1000 tons, so that, with careful firing and proper husbandry of fuel, they can easily keep the sea under steam for twenty days, or very nearly double the time which the King William could remain out of harbour without coaling. There is nothing very peculiar in the principle of construction of this frigate beyond that she is built with all the improvements and modifications which our experience in armour-clads can suggest as desirable. Her construction is on what is called the longitudinal system—that is, a series of most powerful wrought-iron girders, or frames, laid at intervals of 7 ft. apart, and passing along her completely from stem to stern. Between these frames the wrought-iron ribs are bolted, below the water-line, at intervals of 4 ft. apart; but above it, and behind the armour, they are bolted as close as to be within 2 ft. of each other. Within both frames and ribs comes another iron skin an inch thick, so as to literally make a double ship, the inner one being 4½ ft. apart from the outer. Side passages, or wings, as they are called, running the whole length of the structure, continue this double form up to the main deck. The inner side of these wings forms the walls of the coal-bunkers, so that even were it possible for a shot to pass through the armoured sides of the King William it would still have to penetrate the iron coal-bunkers and pass through 8 ft. of coal before it could do any mischief to the fighting crew of the ship. The armour is 8 in. thick amidships, tapering gradually downwards to a thickness of 7 in. at 7 ft. below the water-line. It also tapers off in the same manner towards the bow and stern, diminishing from 8 in. to 6 in., and then to 4 in. The latter thickness, however, is only used in places where it is almost impossible a shot could strike, such as under the counter or under the bows. Wherever it is probable a shot could strike there is never less than 6 in. of armour and nearly always 8 in., with a powerful 10-in. teak backing and double iron skin. Just aft of the bowsprit and just forward of the stern two immense bulkheads, each of 6-in. armour and 18 in. of teak, are continued from the lower deck up through the maindeck, and rise to the height of 7 ft. above the spardeck. On this spardeck these ponderous protections are curved into the form of slightly semi-circular shields, each pierced with four portholes for cannon and loopholed for musketry. Within these shields are to be carried four 300-pounders, which can be used to fire straight for and aft or as broadside guns. Except the men protected by these shields, the ship, on going into action, would not have a man upon her spar deck. When we say that the maindeck is of iron half an inch thick, and the spardeck of the toughest steel half an inch thick, that she is to be fitted with cupola-furnaces for heating red-hot shot and filling shells with molten iron, and that, though only ship-rigged, she will carry a crew of 700 men, we have said quite enough to indicate the tremendous powers of this great ship.

The King William could be launched at once, if necessary, but it is so much more convenient, as well as less expensive, to complete her fittings while she is on the stocks that it has been decided to defer her launch till after the spring tides of March next. Then she will be removed to the Victoria Docks, and by the autumn be ready to make her first cruise to sea, armed and equipped from stem to stern. From first to last she will cost about £400,000, but in strength and in armament she is a fleet in herself.

FIRE-ENGINE STATIONS.—The committee of the Metropolitan Board having charge of the fire brigade, having obtained sites in Westminster, near Victoria-street, and in Marylebone (Charlotte-street, Portland-road), have rapidly proceeded with the erection of the necessary buildings. The station at Westminster is a superior building of brickwork, with ornamental window heads and string cornices. In the basement are ranges of stabling for several horses, recesses for the storage of provender, with workshops for the men when employed on regular duty in the repair and cleaning of hose, &c. The house is completely fitted throughout, and well supplied with water from cisterns affixed upon the roof, the whole being lit with gas. There are also lavatories, bath-rooms, and every necessary culinary and sanitary convenience, both for the married and single men. The front entrance to the new brigade station in Marylebone is in Great Portland-road, and the back entrance in Charlotte-street. There is accommodation provided for three horses, two engines, and every convenience for the lodging of eight men, three of whom have families.

THE PROPOSED FOREIGN CATTLE MARKET.—On Tuesday evening a meeting, convened by the butchers' trade society, was held in Butchers' Hall, Eastcheap, for the purpose of taking steps to oppose the establishment of a separate market for the sale and slaughter of foreign cattle.—Mr. Healey, J.P., in the chair. The chairman said, although he had retired from the trade of a butcher for twenty years, yet he was always willing to do anything for the interests of the trade, and therefore presided there that evening. Mr. Pickworth moved the first resolution, as follows:—"That this meeting protest against the Metropolitan Foreign Cattle-market Bill now before Parliament, its object being the establishment of a separate market and slaughter-houses at the waterside for the sale and slaughter of foreign cattle imported into London, and resolves to oppose with the utmost vigour the said bill, and any other plan that will prevent the most free and open competition between home and foreign cattle and sheep." He said the establishment of a foreign cattle market would tend to injure competition, and would result in a loss to the public. If the privilege of killing was taken away from the butchers at private slaughter-houses, a great injury would be done to the trade. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion, which was carried. Mr. Wood moved, "That this meeting is of opinion that the establishment of a separate market with slaughter-houses adjoining, for the sale and slaughter of foreign cattle therein, will be most inconvenient to the trade, and will decrease competition, tend to diminish the importation of cattle, and to increase the price of meat without being a certain safeguard against the spread of rinderpest." He said if the foreign cattle were slaughtered at the new cattle market, the offal, tripe, &c., which was an article of food largely consumed by the poor, would be completely lost. Mr. Gurrier, in seconding the motion, said the market could only have one result. The butcher and the importer would not pay for the increased cost; therefore, the cost would fall upon the public. It would ruin the retail butcher and could do the wholesale butcher no good. The motion was carried. The chairman then read the report of a committee of salesmen appointed at a meeting of salesmen at the Freemasons' Tavern, which set forth that the present regulation of holding one market for home and foreign cattle tended to equalise prices. The compulsory slaughter of foreign cattle at the water-side or at the proposed cattle market would, on the contrary, prevent their coming into competition with the English cattle. The salutary effect on the price of meat produced by such competition would thus be neutralised, the value of foreign cattle would be decreased, and the importation would be checked. Compulsory slaughter at a port, like compulsory slaughter at a market, was more expensive to the butchers, hampered the trade, would diminish importation, and raise the price to the consumer. Mr. Morris said it was impossible to supply the 3,000,000 people in London with food without the aid of private slaughter-houses. He moved a resolution pledging the meeting to support the committee of the butchers' trade society in opposing the Foreign Cattle Market Bill. The motion was carried, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

An interesting debate on the proposed press law has taken place in the Corps Législatif, the leading speakers in opposition to the measure being MM. Thiers, Jules Favre, and Picard; while its defenders include MM. Rouher, Baroche, and Pinard. M. Granier de Cassagnac opposed the bill because no further liberty of the press was wanted. The measure has passed through the first stage, and the Chamber is engaged in the details. In the course of the debate M. Rouher, referring to the Emperor's letter of Jan. 19, 1867, denied that any attempt had been made to obstruct the Liberal movement, and said:—"The Government has honestly accepted the work intrusted to its care. A certain amount of anxiety had been shown respecting the opportuneness of the bill. We have carefully examined the question, and from that examination have come to the firm conclusion to sustain the bill energetically. We had entered into an engagement, and a strong Government should never retreat from its engagements. We do not fear the press. We have the means to keep it within bounds." M. Rouher did not believe in the modification of party feeling, but in its impotency. He said:—"The majority ought therefore to side with the resolutions of the Government, and not allow a division in its ranks. A new generation has arisen. Four millions of electors who made the First Empire are dead. Four millions of new electors have thrown new life into the nation; they should not be stopped, but guided."

Rumours of the resumption of the negotiations for a conference on the Roman question are again circulating in Paris. The chief points of the basis proposed for these negotiations are said to be the evacuation of Civita Vecchia by the French troops, the arming of the Papal fortifications and troops with French guns, and the protection of the coast against the incursion of Garibaldians by French vessels. It is even confidently stated, on good authority, that this basis was accepted by the Italian Government last Christmas Day. A contradiction of these statements, however, comes from Florence. Prince Napoleon, alluding to these rumours, is reported to have said of the Emperor:—"Wonderful man! It is barely a fortnight since he ceased to conspire with Italy, and now he conspires against her with Austria and the Pope!"

A second number of the secret journal *La République* has been seized by the police in Paris, and anonymous letters have been received by the authorities warning them that if the agents of the police continue their arbitrary arrests one of the principal police stations will be burnt down, together with its inmates, by a society of forty persons which has been formed for the purpose of putting an end to police abuses. This society has also notified its determination to prosecute at the assizes the next policeman that ill-treats a citizen. Great alarm prevails both at Court and in the police department in consequence of these announcements. *La République* professes to be the organ of a secret revolutionary Government, whose object it states to be "the liberation of France from the shameful yoke which has oppressed it for sixteen years." It calls upon the French Republicans to avenge themselves on the Emperor, "who has fattened on Republican blood," and urges every Republican, like a second Brutus, to "strike the tyrant wherever he may find him." The old Republican device, "Liberté, égalité, fraternité," appears at the head of the paper, and "Vive la République" at the end.

ITALY.

The marriage of Prince Humbert with Princess Margherita of Genoa has been arranged for April 26. General Menabrea last Saturday formally announced to the Italian Parliament the approaching marriage. The announcement was received with great applause by both Houses, who immediately passed votes of congratulation to the King and the Prince and Princess.

It begins to be asserted that King Victor Emmanuel intends to abdicate in favour of his son Humbert, after the marriage of the latter. This step, it is asserted, would be very welcome to the French Government.

The naval estimates for 1868 amount to 35,687,348 lire, showing a reduction of 1,088,580 lire in the ordinary expenses, as compared with those of 1867; while the extraordinary expenses have increased 4,089,012 lire. The committee propose a fresh reduction of 1,028,271 lire in the ordinary expenses. These reductions would reduce the total amount of the estimates to 34,658,129 lire.

The estimates of the Ministry of War for 1868 amount to 170,215,720 lire. The committee of the Chamber proposes a reduction of 2,264,170 lire.

The committee nominated to consider the reorganisation of the National Guard has presented its report. The committee proposes that the National Guard should be considered as the last reserve of the army, to be called into active service, if required, in time of peace as well as of war: in time of peace it would protect public order should it be disturbed, in time of war it would act as a contingent in case the strength of the regular army was insufficient for the defence of the State. The National Guard would consist of two categories, one of which would never be called to serve out of the commune to which it belonged. It would have to serve permanently, the officers would be appointed by the Government, and the arms be in the custody of the Government authorities.

General La Marmora has published a letter to his electors, in which he draws a very gloomy picture of the present state of Italy. "What," he says, "is our real position? It would be too long and painful to describe it fully, and I will therefore only say that we are being ruined by anarchy; that we now see despotism transferred from the palace to the street, favourites from the Court to the Chambers, and conspiracy from secret hiding-places to the Cabinet. . . . And what is the cause of these evils? We are attacked by three manias—the mania for popularity, the mania for intrigue, and that of finding fault." Notwithstanding this, the General does not despair of his country. "I see," he adds, "on all sides difficulties and complications which prevent other States from mixing in Italian affairs except at the cost of endangering the peace of Europe. We have many honourable and able men, and excellent elements of order, force, and culture; and I cannot think that we are capable of destroying our great work, the unity and independence of Italy, with our own hands." As for the Roman question, General La Marmora thinks Italy should let it lie by, and thus gain time. He instances the fate of Napoleon I., of Poland, and of Austria in 1866 to show the evil effects of an excessive persistence in striving after a particular object. Italy should for the present, he says, be satisfied with regarding Rome as her rightful capital, and not seek to make it her real capital. France is a true friend to Italy, and he does not doubt that Napoleon III. will aid her to complete her unity as soon as circumstances will permit him to do so.

PRUSSIA.

Count von Bismarck puts the compensation which it is proposed should be given to the King of H. over for the loss of his kingdom on a distinctly commercial footing. The bill for making the compensation came before the Chamber of Deputies in Berlin last Saturday. The Count delivered a speech of some length in defence of it. Hanover, he says, brought into the kingdom great wealth, and therefore Prussia will be no loser by giving the ex-King a swinging sum. But this is only a small part of the reason for the proposal of the Government. They believe that by paying King George liberally they will avoid a good deal of trouble in the future. It is the best way, the Count argues, of dealing with Princes whom you have dethroned. They care not so much for the people as for the pelf, and if you give them the latter they cease to trouble themselves about the former. Italy would gladly have dealt in a similar way with her ex-Dukes, only she could not afford it. Prussia, too, would have paid Austria for her share in the duchies; but Austria would not have payment, and see what followed!

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor and Empress of Austria arrived at Pesth on Wednesday evening, and were received with acclamations by the people. The streets of the capital were voluntarily illuminated, their Majesties having declined an official reception.

A long telegram from Vienna summarises the more important portions of the Austrian Red Book, which has been laid before the delegations. It contains 158 documents, which are preceded by a statement of the position of the empire. Referring to German affairs, this statement says:—"Austria entertains, since the Treaty of Prague, the same peaceful and friendly sentiments towards Prussia and Italy as towards the other Powers. Though Austria's loss of her position in Germany did not imply the extinction of her sympathies towards her former Federal allies, she, nevertheless, would not side with Prussia in the Luxemburg difficulty. On the other hand, she would not attempt to profit by a war between France and Prussia, and the Imperial Government therefore took care to prevent the Emperor Napoleon and the French statesmen from expecting the co-operation of Austria in a conflict with Prussia." The friendliness which Italy has shown to Austria is subsequently acknowledged. The statement of the Red Book referring to the Eastern question declares that international obligations and Austria's friendly relations with the Sublime Porte have prevented the Imperial Government from giving any support to the Candian insurrection. It explains why Austria did not take part in the collective step taken by the Powers, and why she, on the contrary, did give in her adhesion to the proposal for a commission of investigation into the affairs of Candia, where, it says, the work of pacification is making most gratifying progress.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* publishes a letter from Bucharest stating that three bands of armed men, each band 450 strong, are assembled at different points of the Danubian Principalities. They appear to be under the command of foreign leaders, and are preparing to enter Bulgaria to set fire to the Turkish villages and renew the scenes of brigandage which were suppressed last year. The Rouman Government, having been warned of their intention, is preparing to disarm these bands, and to prevent by every means at its command an expedition which would entail upon it so heavy a responsibility.

GREECE AND CANDIA.

Advices from Athens speak of differences existing between the members of the Greek Cabinet. Some of the Ministers desire a dissolution of the Chamber, but the King is said to fear the consequences of such a step.

According to Greek accounts, published in the Athens papers, the Turks have been defeated in more than one engagement by the Candiot. One of these engagements was at Heracleum. The Candiot numbered 1500 and the Turks 5000. The latter had to take shelter in the fortress, where, enraged at their defeat, it is alleged that they fell upon some prisoners whom they had taken and slew several of them.

The Turkish Government has just made the following concessions to the Candiot:—Perpetual exemption from the charge for military service; from the tax on salt and tobacco produced in the island; from the impost on wine, and exemption from tithes for two years. After this period the tithe will be reduced to 5 per cent for two years, which revenue is to be raised in the island as an indemnity for the losses caused by the insurrection.

THE UNITED STATES.

By the Atlantic cable we have news from America to the 4th inst. The New York papers of that date state that Mr. Adams has resigned his post as Minister of the United States to our Government.

The bill suspending Mr. McCulloch's authority to contract the currency has become law. Congress has passed a new bill respecting the abolition of the cotton tax. It repeals the internal tax on cotton immediately, and removes the duty on the importation of foreign cotton after Nov. 1 next. The President has given his assent to the bill.

The House of Representatives has passed, by 123 votes to 45, a bill declaring no valid Civil Government to exist in the lately rebellious States, prohibiting their recognition as valid by the National Executive or Judiciary, revoking all powers of removal or appointment conferred upon the President by the Reconstruction Act, and conferring them upon the General of the Army, and declaring it unlawful for the President to employ the national army and navy to enforce the authority of the existing provisional State Governments, or oppose the execution of the Reconstruction Act. It is reported that the Reconstruction Committee have agreed to report a bill to deprive the Supreme Court of jurisdiction over cases arising from the execution of the Reconstruction Act.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives have come to the determination of introducing a bill declaring that naturalised citizens abroad are entitled to the same protection as native-born citizens, unless such protection shall have been forfeited by crimes against the Federal laws or against foreign Governments committed within their jurisdiction, or by desertion from actual service, or by enlistment in a foreign army or navy, or by adoption of a domicile beyond the limits of the United States for over one year. By this bill the President would be authorised to demand the release of citizens who might be detained by foreign Governments upon the ground of American naturalisation not absolving them from allegiance.

Mr. Stanton has announced positively that he will not resign. The President holds no communication with him, and he does not attend meetings of the Cabinet.

MEXICO.

The New York papers publish intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 16th. Sisal was still closely blockaded. President Juarez had declared Yucatan in a state of siege. It was reported that 20,000 muskets for the insurgents had been shipped from Havannah.

THE BRAZILS.

No further fighting had, according to the last advices, taken place between the Brazilians and the Paraguayans. A revolution had broken out in the province of Santa Fé, in the Argentine Confederation, and the insurgents, who had declared for Urquiza, had taken the town of Rosario.

INDIA.

On Dec. 29 an encounter took place between our troops and a band of Wahgeer insurgents. In repulsing them Captains Hebbert and La Touche were killed, and Major Reynolds was severely wounded. No others were killed on our side.

Sir George Yule has resigned his seat at the Governor-General's Council. Sir William Muir has been appointed his successor, and Sir Richard Temple will officiate as Foreign Secretary.

THE POLICE have arrested three men—a shoemaker, a costermonger, and a hawker—and a woman for the murder of Miss Melbourne in Birmingham. The shoemaker made a desperate resistance. The prisoners were examined at the Birmingham Police Court and remanded till Tuesday next. A fourth man was arrested at Bristol on Tuesday.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—The Protestant Defence Association met in the Rotunda, in Dublin, on Wednesday—the Earl of Bandon in the chair. The Marquis of Downshire moved the first resolution, "Loyalty to the Throne;" Lord Erne the second, in favour of the legislative union of England and Ireland; Lord Oranmore the third, on Irish Protestantism's wealth, position, intelligence, and loyalty, its right to protection, and the wrong of dealing with it as if Ireland were a separate country. The other resolutions were against disendowment, the control of education by the Catholic clergy, and in favour of combined action, a petition to the Queen, and other pleasant things.

AN OLD HERO.—Last Saturday, at the suggestion and recommendation of Admiral Schomberg, Queen's Harbour Master, Holyhead, the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society presented a first-class silver medal, together with a splendidly illuminated written testimony on parchment, beautifully framed, to Mr. William Rowlands, aged seventy-six, coxswain of the Holyhead life-boat (the Princess of Wales), given to the National Life-boat Institution by Mr. Leather, Liverpool, who by his heroic actions has been the means, during the past half century, of saving 250 lives. The presentation was immediately suggested on the occasion of the recent noble services of Coxswain William Rowlands and his crew in saving thirty-three lives from the *Lidia Williams*, of Liverpool, and the *Bayadere*, a French barque, which foundered at Holyhead on Dec. 1 last. The presentation was made by the Hon. W. O. Stanley, M.P., in the presence of Admiral Schomberg; the Rev. T. Briscoe, Incumbent of Holyhead; Captain Caval, R.N.; J. Provis, Esq.; the Hon. Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Schomberg, the Misses Schomberg, &c.

THE COUNT OF PARIS ON THE STATE OF GERMANY.

A LEIPZIG journal publishes by authority a letter from the Count of Paris on the state of Germany, dated the 20th of last July. This letter sets forth the impressions made upon the Count by a visit to Germany. The unity of Germany under the supremacy of Prussia is assumed to be an irrevocable fact. Proceeding to consider whether Prussia will be merged in Germany or Germany in Prussia, the Count distinguishes between the Government, with its marked predilection for formality, despotism, and Caesarism; and the Prussian people, the first in Europe in point of intellectual culture, industrious, steady, and pervaded with a spirit of association. A Germany in which Prussia has been merged is a prospect which France ought cordially to accept, and prefer to the division of Germany between Austria and Prussia; but a Prussia in which Germany has been merged would be Caesarism established in Central Europe. Reviewing Count Bismarck's career with no little acuteness, enlarging on his audacity, and the weakness of the Liberals, and tracing the details of his policy, the Count glances at the jealousy in the petty States towards the Prussian army, and then proceeds to allude to the public feeling in the southern States, where it runs in the opposite direction. The south is commercially perfectly unable to disavow itself from the north, and is even more dependent upon it in its intellectual life. Everything combines to cause the south to long for re-union with the north; and, rather than remain in its present situation, it would prefer to accept Prussian supremacy without delay and at any sacrifice. The injudicious demand of a correction of the frontier put by France to Prussia in 1866 has sufficed to prove to the Governments of the southern States how very much they need the protection of the latter Power, and they have accordingly hastened to place the whole of their military force at its disposal. The North German Parliament, at no very distant time, will include the representatives of all Germany among its members; and though Prussia would like to put off the day of this supreme consummation, from the French point of view speedy accomplishment of such complete unity is to be desired, for Prussia would then encumber herself with an opposition strong enough to counterbalance her predominance in German affairs. For the German opposition to be able to organise itself and make head against the absorption policy of Prussia it is necessary that no war should break out. In Germany the prospect of war is odious to the people, but they are none the less jealous of foreign interference. The idea of recovering Alsace or Lorraine, or annexing Holland, the Germans have never regarded as anything more serious than a wild fancy hatched in the brain of some professor of history; but they, too, have their Monroe doctrine, "Germany for the Germans," and whoever would attempt to violate this axiom by the appropriation of a slip of that land whose entire soil forms their great Fatherland, or even by meddling with their internal concerns, might be assured that he would cause them all to unite and turn against him. This is a fact which it would be useless and absurd to conceal from oneself. Hence the national sensitiveness, which may be taken advantage of by the Prussian Government at any moment, should it wish for a rupture. It is the conviction of the German mind that the Emperor is determined to make war, and that he is only waiting for a favourable opportunity. The Germans see in the words of M. Thiers and in the articles of the Government press unconditional opposition to their unity movement and warlike hankerings on the part of the French people. Though they have no wish to provoke war, they are by no means in a conciliatory mood, and will not eschew it. Though disclaiming it, they yet hold war to be a necessary evil under the circumstances, and, once in it, will carry it on with a will, so as to have done with it all the sooner. Germany does not incite Count Bismarck to war, and will even thank him for obviating it; but it will supply him with the means. But though war is possible, the Count does not consider it at all inevitable or even probable. Its first result would be to effect the re-union of north and south to the advantage of Prussia alone. The letter concludes as follows:—"What was possible a year ago, what France might have wished for then, what to our neighbours might have been acceptable then, is to-day irremediably lost. German unity, having been long in course of preparation, has not only been established, but established by force of arms. Foreign complications or domestic events may accelerate or retard matters. A war may break out and sweep away all resistance yet opposed to the Prussian system. A revolutionary hurricane may arise, and the King of Prussia, having successfully turned all parties to account without inspiring any with confidence in him, may some day realise the fact that he will rise highest when restoring with his own hands the natural supports of his throne. But, should a prolonged calm succeed the storm of Sadowa, it may be foreseen even now that the liberal ideas will revive during the progress of internal reorganisation, that their old defenders will rally, attract others, and strive against the growing predominance of Caesarism in Central Europe. If the *aura popularis* be favourable, Count Bismarck himself may some day be numbered among the most devoted champions of the liberal ideas. However that may be, the events of an uncertain future cannot be foretold to-day; but we have never belonged to those blind admirers of success who only strive to foresee it in order to prostrate themselves before it. Should we not, in view of the grave revolution now going on in Germany, confine ourselves to an equitable scrutiny of present events, without losing time in anticipating future contingencies or regretting an irrevocable past? Perhaps we may hereafter even be able to see where we should bestow our sympathies, as Frenchmen, as Liberals, and, I should like to add, as sincere friends of Germany."

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION FOR SCOTLAND.—A meeting, called by the Lord Provost, of the inhabitants of Edinburgh and others interested in securing adequate representation for Scotland in the House of Commons, was held in the Music Hall on Monday night. The meeting was largely attended. The first resolution, which affirmed that the share of representation assigned to Scotland, in proportion to other divisions of the kingdom, whether viewed with reference to their respective population or their contributions to the Imperial revenue, is much too small, was proposed by Mr. D. McLaren, M.P. Other resolutions in support of the object of the meeting and demanding fifteen additional members for Scotland were also passed, and the Lord Provost was authorised to sign on behalf of the meeting a petition embodying the resolutions. It was also resolved that copies of the resolutions should be sent to the counties and burghs in Scotland for support.

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—The directors of the Metropolitan Railway Company have issued a circular to the shareholders in which they state that Vice-Chancellor Wood has, contrary to their expectations, entertained to some extent the application of Mr. Bloxam; that the effect of the judgment is to direct that the earnings of the line from Paddington to Moorgate-street for the past half year shall provide not only for the charges of the management of that railway and the interest of the money borrowed and expended thereon, but also for the charges incurred for the management of, and for the payment of the interest on the money borrowed for and expended on, the railways in the course of construction which are now unfinished, and therefore, wholly unremunerative. The directors had considered, and in that view they were supported by the shareholders at several general meetings of the company, that it was reasonable and right that the new railways should bear, in those respects, their own charges. Certain it is that if those railways had been promoted, as they well might have been, by other parties, those charges must have been paid out of the moneys raised for their construction. The more accident of a new line being tacked on to a railway in work ought not, as it seems to the directors, to afford any ground for altering that condition, or for saddling the revenue of the existing line with charges caused solely by and due to the new lines. This, they state, is consistent with the opinion and practice of those most conversant with matters of this description. Under these circumstances, and the advice of counsel, the directors propose to seek the judgment of these points of another tribunal. While, however, the order of the Vice-Chancellor is in force, it will be the duty of the company to submit thereto, and to make the reserve from the traffic receipts meet all the expenses of management, and the interest on the whole amount of borrowed money, as well for the existing lines as for the extensions. After making this provision, there will yet remain a clear available balance which will admit of a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent on the consolidated stock. The directors will consequently propose that an interim dividend at that rate be declared and paid on that stock, leaving in abeyance the remainder of the net profits as certified by the auditors to await the result of the appeal.

THE GALE OF LAST SATURDAY.

THE gale of Saturday last appears to have been more destructive in London and the suburbs than any which has occurred for many years. On the Thames the damage done to shipping has been great, and several persons in charge of the river craft have perished. Some reports give the number drowned at from sixteen to eighteen. The district of Bow seems to have suffered severely. At the dye-works of Messrs. Farnan and Sons, Old Ford, a shaft fell, shortly after one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, upon the roof of one of the workshops, causing the death of three women and injuring several others. The upper portion of the shaft fell straight through the roof, the brickwork scattering in the room beneath, in which a great many women were working, and carrying away the floor and part of the walls. Women, roofing, and flooring were all heaped together upon the basement; and when assistance was procured, and the rubbish and bricks were partially cleared away, the dead body of Isabella McCormack, a married woman, aged forty-four years, was drawn out from under a rafter in a fearfully mutilated state. Next was discovered, underneath the debris, Elizabeth Thompson, aged forty years, a married woman, living at 9, Summer-street, Bow. Both her legs were fractured, and severe contusions were upon almost every part of her body. She was still alive, and was at once conveyed to the London Hospital, but she expired five minutes after her arrival there. At the eastern part of the basement the body of Grace Drenning, aged thirty-eight, married, and living at 11, Spring-street, Bow, was found covered with bricks and rubbish. Mrs. Drenning, who was dead, was sister to Mrs. McCormack, who also lost her life by this melancholy accident. The other sufferers who were at work in the room when the shaft fell were Elizabeth Furnace, aged seventy; Mary Furnace, forty; Elizabeth Turner, seventy-eight; Elizabeth Field, seventy; and Mary Marshall, aged seventy-four years. In Shadwell the gable-end of a house, in which a family named Munford lived, was blown down. John Munford and his children—John, aged twelve years, and Eliza, aged nine months—were sitting in a room up stairs at the time. Munford jumped out of a window and injured his back, and his son, who at the time was carrying his little sister, received several contusions from the bricks. The infant was much cut about the head. Munford was attended as an out-patient at the London Hospital, and the children remain in at present. In the City, at No. 1, Prince's-place, Coleman-street, an immense stack of chimneys, the brickwork of which weighed nine tons, was blown down. It fell on the roof almost in a mass and brought down two thirds of it into the upper rooms of the house. In these rooms were three children—Thomas William Myal, aged nine; Lucy Elizabeth, his sister; and Emily Banks, a girl of fourteen, who was engaged minding the baby. The baby was killed on the spot. Some of the rafters, falling so as to form a sort of penthouse from the mantelshelf to the flooring right over the girl Banks, saved her life, but she was injured, though not seriously, by being struck with portions of bricks and tiles. The boy escaped unhurt. A block of brickwork weighing half a ton fell within four inches of the little girl's head. The Strand did not escape the ravages of the gale, for several sheets of glass in the Charing-cross terminus were demolished, and it was with no little difficulty that cabs could be brought with passengers to the entrance gates. One of the cabs was blown over and the driver pitched head foremost into the road, but he escaped with slight injury; the passengers, however, were not quite so fortunate, as they were much shaken, and one gentleman received a compound fracture of the left collar-bone. Among the other damage occasioned by the gale a large new building at Mr. Spurgeon's Orphanage, Stockwell, built by voluntary subscriptions, and which had cost £600, was totally demolished, the materials alone remaining. In the Home Park at Windsor a large tree was blown across the South-Western Railway when a train was due, and the train was only pulled up just before it reached the obstruction. The telegraph posts and wires were blown down, and messages had to be forwarded over the point of interruption by train.

During the height of the gale of Saturday in Dublin, a policeman, walking on his beat in Grafton-street, was thrown down by a portion of a stack of chimneys blown down upon the pathway, and on being conveyed to the hospital was found to have been so seriously injured that his recovery is doubtful.

A train on the Cambrian Railway fell into the Severn last Saturday morning through the giving way of a bridge at a place called Caersw. There were no passengers except drovers, and these escaped, but the engine-driver and stoker were drowned. It was a mail-train, but the mails were not injured, and after some delay were forwarded to their destination.

The gale was most violent in its effects in the English Channel, and has been attended with very serious disasters to shipping, the full amount of which cannot be ascertained. This gale was considerably more violent than that a fortnight previously, and has been much more disastrous in its effects in the neighbourhood of the Channel Islands.

LORD HOBART is going out to Constantinople as resident director of the Ottoman Bank, at a salary of £3000 a year.

FUNERAL OF MR. CHARLES KEAN.—The Hampshire papers give long accounts of the burial of the late Mr. Charles Kean, on Thursday week. Intimate friends of the deceased attended from a distance as mourners. Among them were the Portsmouth dramatic corps and Mrs. Barnett, the aged widow of the manager of the Chichester theatre in which Charles Kean played on his nineteenth birthday. The deceased annually distributed alms to the poor of Catherington parish, where he buried his mother, and by the side of whom his body was laid. The inscription on his mother's tomb is as follows:—"To the memory of Mary, relict of the late Edmund Kean (native of Waterford), who departed this life March 30, 1849, in or about the seventieth year of her age. 'Angels sing thee to thy rest.' This tomb was erected by her affectionate son, Charles John Kean."

MR. SPURGEON'S SCHOOLS AND ALMSHOUSES.

In one of the vestries at the Metropolitan Tabernacle a very pretty little water-colour drawing is shown of the meeting-house at Winslow in which Benjamin Keach, during the "troubulous times" for Nonconformity in the reign of Charles II., ministered to a few honest country folk, "his Church." The pastor and people doubtless prayed for prosperity and peace, and it must have been the prayer of faith, for there were few signs of a better state of things; and when the pastor was persecuted and put in the stocks they must have been sorely shaken in their faith, and have tested the truth of the doctrines of grace he so conscientiously preached. The little Church at Winslow felt the loss of their pastor's removal to London, but little knew that it was the answer to their prayers, and that he was about to establish a Church in the metropolis which should afterwards become the largest in the world.

In Horselydown Keach formed a small church, and the poor and despised were gathered together to listen to those consolations which they greatly needed. Founded and, as it were, rooted in trouble, it is not surprising that the Church prospered, and in after years—under Dr. Gill for over fifty years, and Dr. Rippon for a similar period, and many others less known; and finally under the pastorate of Charles H. Spurgeon—the Church, which after various removals, settled down in the substantial chapel in New Park-street, built during the pastorate of Dr. Rippon. That chapel, however, became too small, and the congregation removed to the Metropolitan Tabernacle. The previous meeting-house of the Church had been pulled down, the site being required for the approach to the new London Bridge.

After the Church removed to Newington the old chapel was used for some time as a place of worship; but it was found quite impossible to make it self-supporting; and, a debt accumulating year after year, it was ultimately agreed to sell the entire property, which was accordingly done, with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners. The conditions of the trust-deed as relating to the chapel have been carried out by the building of the Tabernacle, and, as relates to the almshouses, larger and better ones have been built sufficiently near the Tabernacle for the inmates to attend; and the trustees propose, as soon as possible, to establish day and Sunday schools in the rooms provided for that pur-

pose. The buildings are on freehold ground, the cost of which and the edifices is nearly covered by the sale of the old building at New Park-street, the trustees making themselves responsible for any deficiency.

The almshouses were founded by Dr. Rippon in 1832, and placed in trust for six poor old women, members of the Church. The present almshouses will accommodate twelve persons.

Several sums of money were left to Dr. Rippon and placed in trust for the benefit and support of the six aged inmates, and also for keeping the houses in repair. Doubtless Mr. Spurgeon will meet with liberal friends who will assist him in raising a sum sufficient to place the additional number of inmates on the same footing.

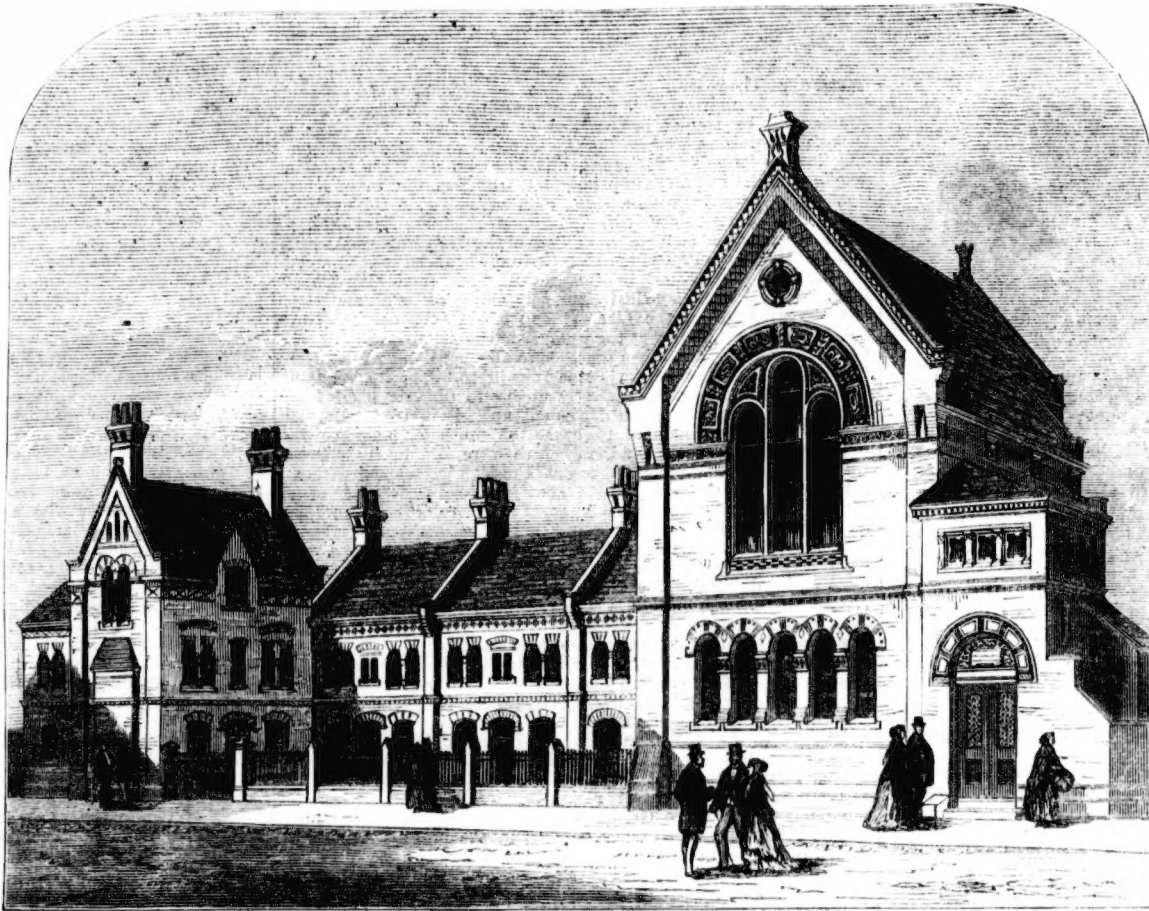
INDOOR CRICKET.

SKATING-SALOONS, in which the pastime whilom special to frosty weather can now be pursued at all seasons in well-lighted, well-warmed, and well-ventilated halls, have now become established institutions; but indoor cricket is as yet a novelty. So the cricketing world will learn with pleasure that a means has been provided by which they will be enabled to enjoy their favourite sport "all the year round," and shorn of but little of its *al fresco* attraction. Indoor cricket has been commenced in the largest of the swimming-basins of the Lambeth Baths, in Westminster-road, under the auspices of Mr. W. Mortlock, the well-known Surrey long stop, and bids fair to succeed with the lovers of the game and with the public generally. "The Surrey Cricketing Saloon," occupies a space of 139ft. in length by 50 ft. in width, so that ample room is afforded for batting and bowling practice. The foundation of the huge bath is of Portland cement, and, when covered with a very fine sawdust, affords an excellent bowling surface, which, being free from the irregularities of the turf, never causes the ball unduly to rise or jerk. To guard against the possibility of accident, a stout netting, made in Newcastle, on the pattern of the trawling-nets, completely separates the players from the audience. Professional bowlers are engaged; bats, balls, pads, and gloves are provided; and those who practise express themselves altogether satisfied. The temporary conversion of this gigantic bath for the purpose of the "national game of cricket," causes no interruption to the ordinary autumn and winter bathing; and bathers and bowlers can have a bath after their exercise.

Among the patrons of the new establishment are Mr. J. C. Gregory and Mr. C. Absolom. Mr. Gregory is the cricketer who in 1867 played for eighteen different clubs, who batted in seventy-seven matches, who played 106 innings, who was forty-eight times caught out, who was thirty-five times bowled out, who was eight times stumped

out, seven times *not out*, twice run out, twice 1 b w, who once hit his wicket, was thrice out we don't know how, and who altogether scored 2259 runs last season, including innings of 135 runs, 83, 75, 69, 65 *not out*, 63, 63, 62, 61 *not out*, 61, and a host of smaller scores gradually descending to the uncoveted 0, which cipher, by-the-by, is only five times appended to Mr. G.'s name. We know that all this has been done in matches many of them a long way from the A 1 class; yet it is an astonishingly busy season's hitting; and it must be borne in mind that a great portion of these innings have been played on grounds *not* like bowling-greens. Mr. Gregory has been described by a judge of the game as "a dashing and severe hitter, particularly with the on and off drive; a most resolute batsman and a rare upsetter of maiden overs." His fielding is smart and effective; and, although a bit of "a terror" to some clubs, he is a popular cricketer on all the metropolitan and suburban grounds he plays on. Mr. Absolom is an earnest devotee and liberal supporter of the game, a good cricketer, and a popular man go where he will. Messrs. Absolom

a place where the lower classes, including hawkers, workpeople, and street labourers, may go and get a wholesome meal of hot soup, meat, and bread for a few sous. Our illustration this week represents the children's kitchen in the Faubourg St. Antoine, that ancient quarter of Paris, the name of which is historical, and where revolutions have so often commenced. Her Majesty the Empress, forward always in works of charity, has here taken the famishing little ones under her especial charge, and herself assists in the distribution of the savoury meals, for which of course no charge is made. It is a very pretty sight, this great room in the Maison Eugene Napoleon—the wistful little girls on the right, and the half-frozen, half-famished gamins on the left, waiting, with eager looks, for the porringers of soup, and watching, with wide, open, wondering eyes, the gracious lady, who to them represents, perhaps, an archangel or some other great and beneficent power charged with a direct mission from Providence; while the Sisters of Mercy who wait upon them are already familiar as the messengers of Heaven sent to fill little empty stomachs and thaw frozen fingers with pannikins of soup.

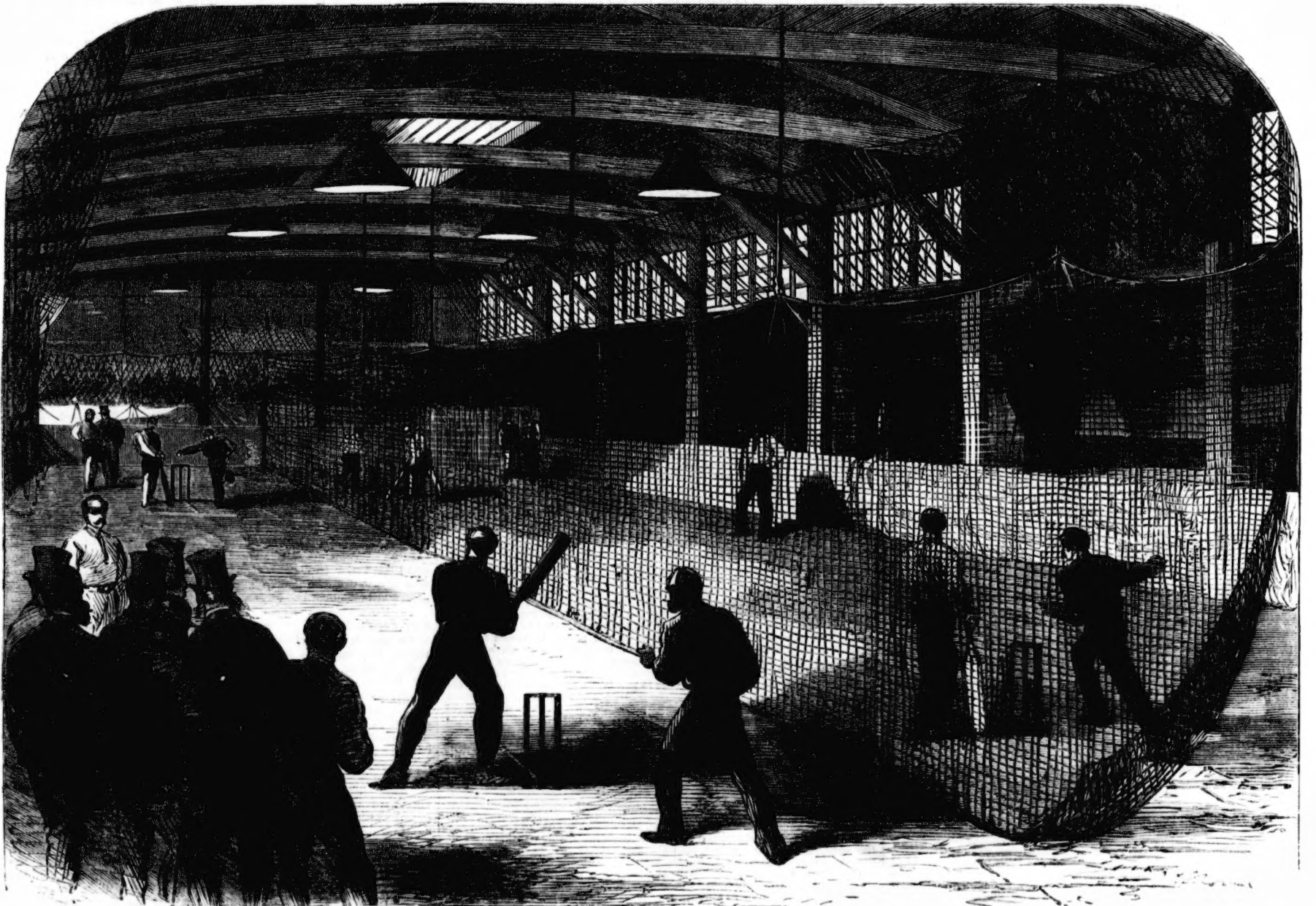


MR. SPURGEON'S ALMSHOUSES AND SCHOOLS, NEAR THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE.
(J. CUBITT, ESQ., ARCHITECT.)

and Gregory are rarely apart on cricket-grounds. Mr. A.'s "blocking" in 1867 did not come up to that of '66 (a damaged leg in the early part of the season mainly accounted for that); still, he has scored and averaged well, indeed, for an "old-un;" but Mr. Absolom's bowling has been very hard to beat. It is funny work that bowling—what a well-known umpire once defined as "eccentric, being composed of slows, expressers, jumpers, and yorkers;" be that as it may, Mr. Absolom's command of the ball, great experience, and excellent judgment of the weak points of batsmen make his bowling very destructive at times; thus, in the match "London v. Wallingford" he had twenty wickets, in another match he had fifteen wickets, in five other matches he had fourteen wickets in each, in two more matches he had thirteen in each; and altogether last season 373 wickets fell to his "eccentrics."

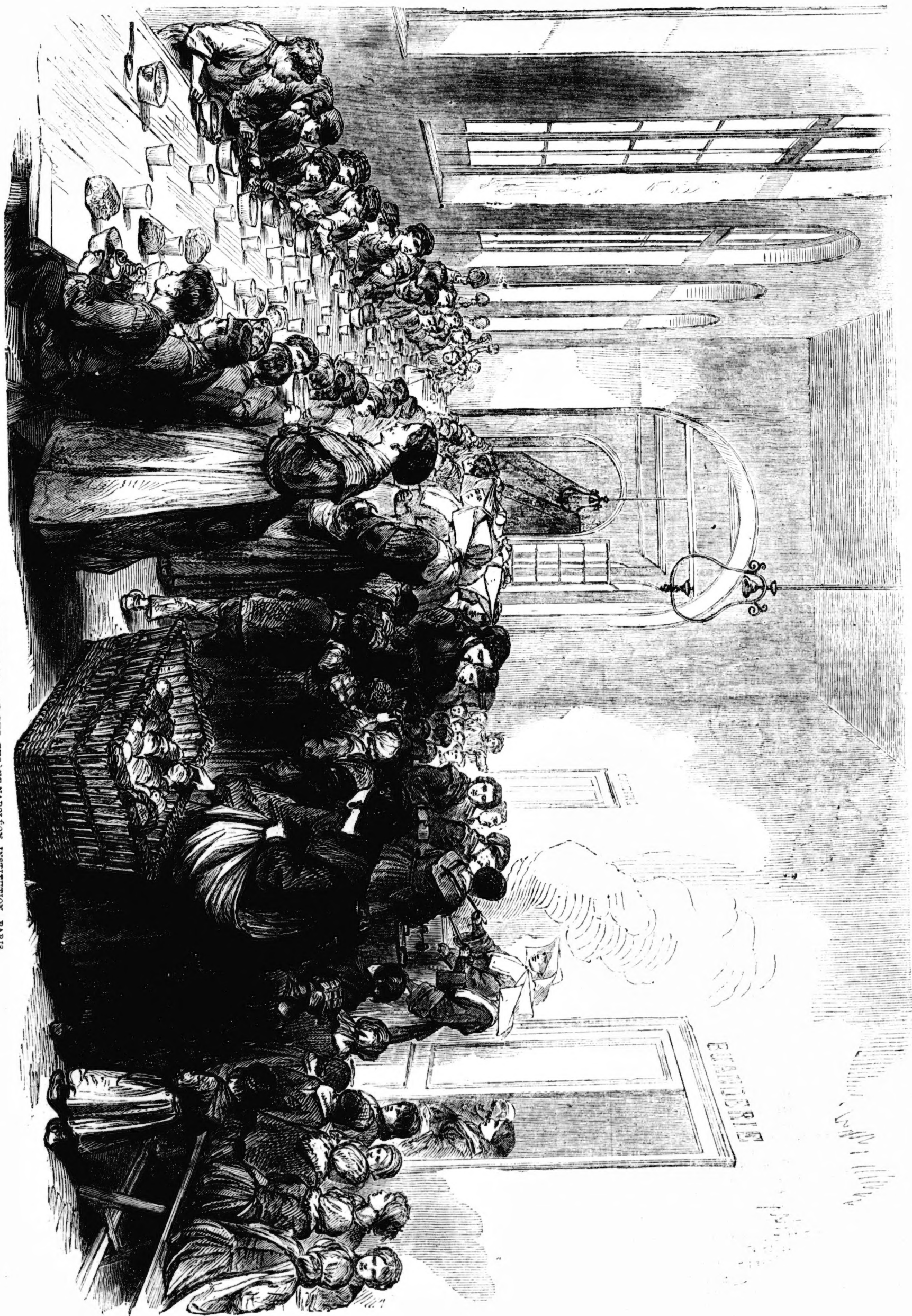
CHILDREN'S SOUP-KITCHEN IN PARIS.

EVEN now that the snow has melted away and the great blocks of ice have disappeared in the Seine, the distress among the poor of Paris continues. The children of the working classes especially are suffering terribly from the want of sufficient food, and it is necessary to keep up the charitable distributions of the soup-kitchens and other benevolent establishments to enable them to keep life and soul together. Only a week or two ago we published an Engraving of the kitchen for the relief of the poor opened in the name and with the support of the Prince Imperial—



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1868.

THE ART OF HOUSEKEEPING.

A LETTER appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* a few days ago, which seems to indicate that "technical education" is much wanted among other orders of society besides our manufacturing artisans. The writer of the letter in question was a lady who "pays her bills weekly," and she, being in delicate health, complains that her life is made miserable and her days are being shortened by the continual worry to which she is subjected on the score of housekeeping expenses. Her husband never gives her a cheque without objecting to the amount demanded, and wishing to know "what becomes of it all." The cook, on the other hand, either cannot or will not help the unhappy lady to find out "how the money goes;" and so the fair correspondent of our contemporary has no resource—being apparently innocent of all knowledge of the art of housekeeping herself—save writing to the papers and appealing to "other ladies" for aid. She has two objects in view—first, to ascertain whether she is being cheated by her tradesmen—and perhaps by "cook;" and, second, to ascertain whether a good case may not be got up in defence of the bills, and so enable her to snub her husband when he complains of their amount.

In order to furnish data for judgment, the perplexed housekeeper gives the amount of her several tradesmen's accounts, which reach an aggregate sum of eighteen guineas weekly. This statement, however, is prefaced by the important pieces of information that "we are three in family, with nine servants," and that, though no grand entertainments are given, a few friends occasionally drop in to dinner. Well, eighteen guineas seems a large sum to expend in the maintenance of one private family for a week. But mark this: "We are three in family, with nine servants." With that statement before us, it seems unnecessary to inquire much further for a solution of the mystery. Nine servants to attend upon three persons, or three to each individual! After that bit of extravagance, all the rest is simple enough. Dividing the eighteen guineas of household bills by twelve, we find that the cost of feeding each person in the establishment is one guinea and a half per week, without counting anything for the friends who drop in occasionally for dinner. Not an extraordinarily large allowance that, surely, in a family where three servants are deemed necessary to each of its members. But did it never occur to the mind of this distressed lady-housekeeper that servants who cost £1 11s. 6d. per week each for food alone are rather expensive articles, and that her first step in household reform should be to dispense with at least half the number she keeps? It is no wonder that the substance of this lady's husband is being eaten up, or that he grumbles thereat, while such a host of half-idle and luxurious "Jeameses" and "Mary-Hanns" continue on the premises. And when we add to this that the mistress of the house evidently knows nothing whatever of housekeeping or the price of commodities, and that she does not attend to giving of orders and checking of bills herself, but leaves everything to "cook," the marvel is, not that money is wasted, but that the waste is not greater still.

Now, we maintain that this lady, and every other lady of her class, should make herself acquainted with the art of housekeeping before she undertakes the management of an establishment of her own. In other words, ladies, of whatever rank, should receive a "technical education," such as will fit them for the discharge of the home duties of the station in life in which they move. The whole science of household management should form a prominent element in their early training. They ought to be taught how many servants are needed in a family, in proportion to its numbers; what ought to be the average cost of feeding each member of the family (servants included); to acquaint themselves with the current price of commodities; and to make it a habit to personally give their orders for goods, and to check the tradesmen's bills. That is the sort of technical instruction all young ladies—future wives and mistresses—ought to receive. We do not object to a reasonable measure of attention being paid to more elegant accomplishments. Music, drawing, dancing, and so on, are all very well in their way, and for a lady are in a certain degree indispensable. But the *utile* should be studied as well as the

dulce. If it were, ladies would be delivered from the hands of extortionate tradesmen and wasteful servants; they would not require to complain, either in the newspapers or otherwise, of lectures from their husbands and squabbles with their cooks. As it is, and considering the sort of training young ladies undergo, we do not wonder at waste, extravagance, and bankruptcy; or that most ladies, as the correspondent of our contemporary tells us is the case, "do not like to speak of these things"—that is, they are disinclined to exhibit the skeletons in their cupboards, and to proclaim their own ignorance and incapacity.

And the mischief does not end with the mistresses and their husbands and families. It infects the servant order also. Of the nine servants kept by the lady on whose letter we have been commenting, a large proportion—probably two thirds—must, we should think, be females, and, of course, most if not all of them will be looking forward to marriage and to being housekeepers themselves. And what sort of training are they now receiving for their future duties under their present mistress? Their time cannot be half occupied with their work; therefore they will contract idle and lazy habits. They must be pampered and overfed; therefore they will be luxurious and extravagant in their tastes. They see no skill or judgment displayed in the laying out of money; therefore they will acquire none. Now, as these servants cannot expect to marry millionaires; as, in fact, they must become the wives of men of comparatively if not positively very limited means, we may easily guess what degree of comfort and prosperity will attend them in the married state. Women so trained will, as they say in the north, make excellent poor men's wives, for if they find them poor, they will assuredly keep them so. Verily, others besides manufacturing artisans would be the better for some wholesome "technical education."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES are on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Manchester at Kimbolton Castle.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has given orders to the Ministry of Marine at Vienna to make all the necessary preparations for an expedition to Eastern Asia. This expedition, which is entirely carried out at the expense of the State, is to be under the command of Admiral Tegethoff.

MR. GLADSTONE, M.P., is preparing, and has in a forward state for publication, a work on Greece and Phœnicia.

MR. A. S. FINLAY, M.P. for Argyllshire, has issued an address announcing his intention of resigning his seat. The Marquis of Lorne is announced as the Liberal candidate.

DR. DEANE, Q.C., has been appointed Admiralty Advocate in the place of Sir Travers Twiss, who resigned on being appointed Queen's Advocate. Sir Roundell Palmer has declined the Lord Justiceship of Chancery appeals which had been offered him by the Government.

THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY'S annual spring cattle show will commence on April 21 next, and the report has got abroad in Dublin that the Prince of Wales is likely to be present at it, and also to visit the great April race of Punchestown.

RONGE, the celebrated German preacher, has been cited before the examining magistrates of Frankfurt, on a charge of libel against the Order of Jesuits.

THE PASSENGER-CARS on the Boston and Albany Railway, U.S., are heated by steam. The steam-pipes run under the seats and effectually warm the cars.

T. CHALLONER, the jockey, has purchased the Ashgill estate and training establishment, so long in the occupation of the late John Osborne, his father-in-law, to whom he was articulated.

A DONATION of £1000, for the purpose of founding a medical scholarship in the University of Edinburgh, has been made by Miss Ettles, of Inverness.

THE MASONIC BROTHERHOOD OF PHILADELPHIA are about to build a granite structure 250 ft. long by 150 ft. wide, with a tower 300 ft. in height. It will cost nearly 1,000,000 dollars.

MR. THOMAS LANDSEER, Mr. George D. Leslie, and Mr. William Q. Orchardson have been elected Associates of the Royal Academy. Mr. Landseer, himself the son of a late associate engraver and the brother of two living Academicians, has been elected in the place of Mr. George T. Doo, R.A., one of the first line engravers of the English school, who recently retired.

THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON has in its dead-letter office more than 10,000 photographs of Union soldiers, which accumulated during the war.

AN OLD HEN, in Australia, assists the mother of a litter of puppies in the care of her offspring, and at times sits over them as though they were a brood of chickens.

THE FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Cumberland memorial to the late Earl of Carlisle, K.G., amounts to nearly £500. It is understood that a monument on the top of Brampton Mount is the shape which the memorial is likely to take.

M. AUBER the other day attained his eighty-seventh year. General Mellinet, to do honour to the celebrated composer, brought the band of the National Guard to give him an *aubade*, and the veteran musician came down and warmly thanked the General. The pieces played were the overture of "La Muette" and a march composed by M. Außer when only fourteen.

MR. STANSFELD, M.P., delivered a lecture, in St. James's Hall, on Tuesday evening, on "The Political Future of the Working Classes." Mr. Stansfeld's lecture was thoroughly interesting. Among other suggestions which he made was one that the working classes should send members of their own order into Parliament. The lecture was one of a series given under the auspices of the Reform League.

A NUMBER OF CLERGYMEN connected with the Church of England Temperance Reformation Society waited upon Mr. Hardy, at the Home Office, last Saturday, to urge the abolition of the Beer Act of 1830. Mr. Hardy, while very complimentary to his visitors, told them plainly that an expiring Parliament was not likely to take up the question.

THE POST OF FINANCIAL MEMBER OF COUNCIL IN INDIA is to be offered to Sir R. Temple, lately Commissioner of the Central Provinces, and now resident at Hyderabad. Sir Richard Temple has filled various important posts in the Civil Service of India, and has earned a high reputation. He was also selected by the late Mr. Wilson as his assistant in the Financial Department, and then rendered very great services.

ROBERT DAVIES, an oil-refiner, was stabbed by George Newey, a lad of eighteen, at Aston, last Saturday night, during a drunken squabble. The surgeon who was called to see Davies found stabs in both thighs, in the arm, and in the stomach. Death took place soon after the infliction of the injuries. In the road near where Newey was arrested a knife or dagger, with a blade about three inches long, was found, and in Newey's possession a sheath that fitted it was discovered.

A GARDENER, in trenching some meadow land at Highgate, Middlesex, a few days since, found a vase containing nearly 7000 silver coins, consisting of silver pennies (London, York, Middlesex, Bristol, and Canterbury), groats and half-groats, halfpennies, &c. (Irish and Scotch), Venetian and foreign, Teutonic; and two gold coins of Edward III.; also an amber rosary. The coins have been partially arranged by Mr. Vaux, of the British Museum.

FIVE MEMBERS of a German family named Stang, in Chicago, the head of which is reported to be one of the wealthiest Germans in the city, have been poisoned, though not fatally. A young daughter of the family, aged sixteen, was arrested as the poisoner on the statement of one of the children that she put the poison into the coffee. The young prisoner charges her mother with the deed, and states that her parents were so avaricious and grasping that they ill-treated her when she did not earn sufficient money to suit them.

ON THE BODY OF A YOUNG MAN taken out of the Seine the other day was found a paper with the following words:—"Nobody is to be accused of my death. The accompanying papers will establish my identity. I am an orphan, and have no parent on earth. Young, and in command of a moderate fortune, I had the weakness to dissipate it in the pleasures of debauchery. To-day, without resources, but habituated to a life of luxury and idleness, I am capable of nothing but to kill myself. And I do so."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THAT the Established Church of Ireland is a nuisance which must be got rid of or greatly abated, every liberal politician now believes. This is the thing which ought to be done; but how it is to be done is a question which very few people have thought about. It is very easy to say, offhand, that we ought to do so and so; but to do it is quite another affair. I have never met with a man yet who could tell me how to do this. Mr. Bright has, however, propounded a plan, which is shortly this. He estimates the property of the Church at £13,000,000. This, preserving all life interests, he would have the State take to itself; and out of it distribute some £3,000,000, *pro rata*, between the Catholics, the Protestant Episcopalians, and the Presbyterians. What he would do with the balance he has not told us; nor, indeed, is it worth while at present to consider. The next proposal is that these three churches are to be absolutely free from the control of the State; free though endowed churches, like the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as it now is. This is Mr. Bright's plan; and the first thing that strikes me is that this endowment of these three churches is proposed by a member of a sect which has always protested against all religious endowments, State or otherwise. I shall be curious to see what the Society of Friends and the Anti-State Church Society will say to this plan. No doubt a good many of the more impracticable of the Dissenters will at once lift up a howl against Bright as a deserter of his principles. He himself seems to expect something of the sort. But when due time shall have been given for reflection upon this plan, I suspect, or rather hope, that it will at least be deemed worth pondering. It is certainly at first sight extraordinary that such a scheme should be propounded by a "Friend." But, then, we must remember that Bright is a statesman of great experience, and he knows that no statesman can hope to carry out his theories at once, and that to attempt the impossible is always foolish conduct, whether the attempt be made by statesmen or the Government, by a country, or by private individuals in the management of their own affairs. The *Times*, of course, promptly sneers at this plan, and misrepresents it. It tells us that this scheme of an independent endowed church is exactly what ardent Tories want. But this is not true. What Archdeacon Denison and Mr. Beresford Hope want is an independent Church, armed with the uncontrolled power of the State to enforce the Church's laws. Obviously Mr. Bright does not mean that. There are hundreds of endowed churches in the land which cannot call upon the State to enforce their laws, and over which the State can exercise no power excepting the power to see that the endowments are applied according to the wills of the persons who gave them. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is a notable case in point. It receives £40,000 a year from the State; but the State does not interfere, nor is it ever asked to interfere, to enforce the Presbytery's laws. I have often heard it said that Mr. Bright, with his rigid, impracticable views on many subjects, could never hold office. He has now shown openly that, like all wise statesmen, he can bend to circumstances—submit to the conditions under which all statesmen must act; and, as he will certainly be offered a seat in the next Liberal Cabinet, there seems to be no reason why he should not accept it. Bright has also been charged with always finding fault, but never proposing remedies for the evils which he censures. This is a calumny. He proposed a remedy for Protection. He has never ceased to agitate for the abolition of church rates. He once proposed a definite plan for the government of India. He brought in a bill for Parliamentary Reform; and he now proposes a scheme for settling the Irish Church and land questions. Free Trade was adopted by Sir Robert Peel. Gladstone has a bill before the House which will, if carried, practically abolish church rates. Disraeli borrowed Bright's Reform Bill; and if we live long enough we shall probably see India governed upon Bright's plan, and the Irish Church and land reformers adopt his scheme. So far from being a mere critic of State evils, the hon. member for Birmingham is one of the most practical of our statesmen.

Sir Henry Storks was some time ago made Controller of the War Office. This appointment came upon us suddenly, and excited but little attention. I did not notice it at the time; but on thinking over the matter it has occurred to me to ask, what the duties of Sir Henry are to be? Controller means one who exercises control, but in this sense I had thought that the Secretary of State for War is the controller of the War Office. But, if so, why have another? Is Sir John Pakington too busy or incompetent? Then, again, is this to be a permanent office, or only temporary? Certain changes are going on at the War Office; possibly Sir Henry is to superintend these changes—in other words, to reorganise the War Office, and to lay down his office when the reorganisation shall have been completed. I cannot tell; perhaps some of my readers can. But no matter, we shall know all about it when the War Office votes come before the House. But what think you of this piece of news:—"We (*United Service Gazette*) have reason to believe that the Minister of War is at last about to take the purchase system in hand, and that the first step towards the abolition will be the withdrawal of the lieutenant-colonels and majorities of regiments from the commission market." Can this be true? If it be, and Sir John Pakington should "put it through," as the Americans say, he will achieve immortal honour, and deserve a statue. At present, I doubt the *United Service Gazette's* "reason to believe." I must say, though, that I have observed that the purchase-system has of late rather lost favour amongst the aristocracy, and this is the reason why: Rich manufacturers and merchants' sons have of recent years appeared in the commission-market, and outbid the younger sons. True, there is a regulation price for every commission. But that, as I heard a noble Lord lately say, in phrase common to Lords and costermongers, "is all my eye"—perhaps in allusion to the fact that the authorities notoriously wink at the infraction of the rule. If it be true that Sir John is about to attempt this reform, I should say that he is bidding far beyond the regulation price for office. Abolish the purchase system! Why we may hope to have the law of entail abolished next.

Parliament will assemble next Thursday, and at once the House will plunge in *medias res*. The first business of importance is a notice of motion given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It stands for Thursday, and runs thus:—"Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer—Election petitions, &c. Bills for amending the laws relating to election petitions, and for providing more effectually for the prevention of corrupt practices at Parliamentary elections." True practical reformers, you see, are these Conservative Ministers. One other measure in the way of Parliamentary reform Mr. Chancellor must, I think, voluntarily undertake or have forced upon him—viz., a bill to raise the compound household into life again. Of all the unstatesmanlike acts that Parliament ever performed, nothing, surely, was ever so bad as the sudden abolition of compounding. The confusion, strife, and inconvenience which it caused is now just beginning to be seriously felt; and, unless something be done in the matter, the collectors of poor rates will be driven mad. And the abolition of compounding was so utterly useless. If a house be rated to the poor, that ought to be sufficient to enable the occupier to vote. What matters who carries the rate to the collector? The occupier ultimately pays. The truth is that Disraeli had not sufficiently educated his party to see this last year; but they, now the Reform Bill is safe, will be forced to see it; or, if not—if this problem be too hard for them to understand—they must assent to it without understanding it, as they have done many other things, and will have to do many more.

The butchers, I perceive, are up in arms against the proposed market and slaughter-houses for foreign cattle at the port of debarkation and in defence of private shambles in the heart of the metropolis. "The trade" predict dire results if the project embodied in the bill now before Parliament be carried. There will be no competition in the market and prices will rise (though how that can happen from the absence of competition among buyers it is difficult to perceive); the offal will be lost (though what should hinder the dealers in those portions of the carcass so denominated going to the river-side slaughter-houses as well as to Copenhagen-fields it is equally difficult to understand); the butchers will be inconvenienced—nay, ruined entirely—if forbidden to perpetuate

the nuisance of private shambles in the midst of densely-populated neighbourhoods; and from all this, of course, "the public" will, according to the butchers, be the greatest sufferers, though here, again, it is difficult to perceive the logical sequence of the assertions—for the statements made amount to nothing more—of the men of blue aprons and cleavers. There are no private slaughter-houses in Paris; all the cattle brought alive to that city must be killed at the public abattoirs outside its bounds; and I am not aware that the butchers of Paris have been ruined or the cost of meat raised to the inhabitants in consequence, while they certainly are relieved from the horrors and unwholesomeness incident to intramural cattle-slaughter. Then there are in London dead-meat markets in which a considerable proportion of the food consumed is sold, and which, so far from damaging the interests of consumers, have lately been their best protection against the extortions of the butchers. But perhaps it is useless to argue this question with men who decline to change old habits whatever advantages may result to the general community, and who, therefore, do not want to be convinced. Indeed, what abuse was ever condemned that did not find defenders? and what reform was ever projected that did not meet with opponents? The objections of the butchers must be put aside till, at least, they can show better reasons in their support; and the conservation of the real interests of the community and the preservation of the public health must be studied, the butchers and their outcry to the contrary notwithstanding. I want to see free trade in cattle, sheep, and pigs, as in everything else; but I cannot perceive what slaughtering these animals at one place rather than at another has to do with free trade; while I do know that private slaughter-houses in the midst of cities are evils, and that cattle from infected districts may carry contagion to healthy ones, and that both these things should be guarded against. I therefore trust that the butchers will fall in their opposition to the River-side Slaughter-houses and Market for Foreign Cattle Bill.

Have you, Mr. Editor, had occasion to attend any of the morning performances at the theatres in the neighbourhood of the Strand lately? There are, as everybody knows, several places of public amusement in that quarter, including Drury Lane, Covent Garden, the Lyceum, the Olympic, the new Queen's, the Adelphi, and the Strand; and most of these houses, I believe, have morning performances just now on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Well, I happened to be in that quarter last Saturday, at five o'clock p.m., and I think I never witnessed such a scene of confusion in my life. There were crowds of people on foot making their way from Drury Lane, Covent Garden, &c., towards the Strand, while every street was blocked up with cabs and carriages, and from each cross street or lane other streams of vehicles were struggling into the principal thoroughfares near the several theatres. Cabmen were abusing or chaffing each other, carriages and cabs were coming into collision, while progress on foot was next to impossible and standing still was dangerous; for the vehicles in several instances encroached on the footway. At the corner of Catherine-street, Strand, I saw them driven up close to the walls of the houses. But not a policeman, or anyone to regulate the traffic, was visible. Surely it cannot be unknown to the authorities in Scotland-yard that scenes such as I witnessed take place on these occasions; and some measures might have been adopted to preserve order. They manage matters better in the City; for at Chancery-lane, Ludgate-hill, the Mansion House, and other points where "street blocks" are likely to occur, constables are stationed to govern the traffic. Could not something similar be done west of Temple Bar?

The readers of your contemporary and namesake, the *Times*, must have been sorely puzzled by the Paris correspondent's letter which appeared in that journal on Monday. The writer was giving extracts from the speeches in the French Legislative Chamber on the Press Regulation Bill, and by some accident—the omission of a page or so of copy, most probably—the orations of M. Thiers and M. Pinard were fused into one, so that the former appeared to have pronounced both his own speech against the bill and that of the Minister of the Interior in its defence. The veteran orator was consequently made to argue both sides of the question, his conclusion being utterly irreconcilable with his commencement; and all this in the leading journal of the country whose laws and practice as to the publication of debates he had been lauding highly. I can't tell how M. Thiers and M. Pinard may have felt on the matter, but I daresay Parisian loungers have been as much tickled by the awkward contretemps as I have been. While on this subject, I may remark, without for a moment forgetting the difficulties attending the getting out of a daily newspaper, or the consequent liability to mistakes, that the *Times* has been singularly unfortunate in this way recently. In reporting Mr. Dudley Baxter's paper on national income a week or two ago, the *Times* set down the number of persons of a certain class in England and Wales at 6,000,000, instead of 6,000,000; and in a leading article on the same subject a few days afterwards it was averred that something or other was proved by statistics "ten years later than 1865." Of course 1866 was meant, the figures having simply got transposed. But such mistakes look rather ludicrous.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Cornhill* is distinguished among magazines by not having had a poem from Mr. Tennyson to commence the year with. But, in recompense, Mr. Matthew Arnold is in great force in his two papers on "Anarchy" and "Authority." This time he is quite frank—the cat is out of the bag. I told your readers lately that a certain obscurely-expressed page of his pointed to nothing less than a Central Infidelity, with absolute authority to rule; and at last we have got the thing put into plain words. Mr. Arnold does mean that. Our "best self," or "our right reason" is to be embodied somehow in the State as the "centre of authority" (p. 252). I assure your readers that is the new philosopher's stone; the golden key that lies at the foot of Mr. Arnold's rainbow. He evidently wants it very badly—and I wish he may get it. Meanwhile, I hope my countrymen—"Barbarian, Philistine, and Populace," as Mr. Arnold has it—will be on their guard against his "sweetness and light." It comes up to you with all manner of wreathed smiles, but it carries a cat-o'-nine-tails in its pocket. The "Chapters on Talk" are capital examples of the very readable sort of thing that a bright easy wit can make out of commonplace. More deliberate words of admiration than can be given in this column are due to the choice essay on the "Three Lyrists—Horace, Burns, and Béranger."

Apocryph of the question of the "right reason," or "best self," considered as capable of being embodied in the State, Professor Seeley, in *Macmillan*, on "Milton's Political Opinions," has said things about Milton which are worth noting by those who have not studied the poet's political and social writings. Is it not the lecture which Professor Seeley delivered the other day at the London University which we find embodied in this paper? From Mr. Tennyson *Macmillan* gives us a very short but effective poem, entitled "Wages." Mr. George Meredith contributes a longer poem, entitled "The Orchard and the Heath," which, I'll bet him half a crown, not a dozen readers of the magazine will make sense of. I did it in two attentive readings, but couldn't have done it in less to save my existence. The kernel is worth having, when you have cracked the shell; but, oh! the shell is a hard one. Mrs. Fanny Kemble, on "Lady Macbeth," writes what seems to me by far the best essay that has ever been produced upon that topic, though there is always wanting the last grace of touch and the last gleam of insight in Mrs. Kemble's prose.

The *Victoria* is so good this month as to claim a prominent line or two. Mr. Noble's essay on "Occult Personal Influence" is interesting; but that "the temperament of the most successful mesmerists" is that "which the early phrenologists entitled bilious" is not so true as it looks. Incomparably the most successful mesmerist I ever knew was of the "sanguine lymphatic" temperament, with a strong dash of the "nervous," but none of the "bilious." In the paper on "Casual Kindness" we are introduced to a ragged-school boy, who cannot make out how the "cloud" of the Pentateuch

could be seen by the Israelites on "a dark night." Oddly enough, the boy is not said to have been set right; but he was, of course, mistaken—it was cloud by day, to temper the rays of the sun, and pillar of fire by night.

Among smaller magazines, the *Children's Hour* may be noted as containing some good matter. The Editor's own contributions are full of a beautiful spirit, and the "True Memoirs of Our Dear Pets," by Anna J. Buckland, are felicitous enough. But the author has too keen an eye to edification, and an eye not quite keen enough for the endless humours of her subject.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The purely domestic drama of the old school seems to be dying out. In its place we have a form of dramatic composition which aims at combining the incidents of domestic drama with the higher form of dialogue peculiar to comedy proper. The old-fashioned domestic drama depended mainly on exciting incidents and broad moral contrasts; its dialogue simply illustrated the action of the piece, and was altogether secondary to the story which it helped to tell, except, indeed, in the cases of the low comedian and the "chambermaid," whose incidental "front scenes" had nothing whatever to do with the story, and simply served the useful stage purpose of eking out the time necessary to "strike" the previous scene and "set" the following one. In modern domestic dramas the dialogue is a much more important element, and a careful elaboration of character is often successfully attempted. Mr. Byron's "Dearest than Life" may be taken as an excellent specimen of the modern school of domestic drama; and Mr. Halliday's "Daddy Gray," which was produced a few days ago at the New Royalty, will serve to show the kind of drama which was very much more popular fifteen or twenty years ago than it is now. In Mr. Byron's drama more attention is paid to smartness of the dialogue and elaboration of character than to mere plot; and in Mr. Halliday's drama the story to be told, and the moral relation in which the personages of the piece stand to one another, are treated as matters of much greater importance than lively dialogue or careful character-sketching. Not that the dialogue of "Daddy Gray" is altogether tame and uninteresting: it is in many parts so true to life as to arrest attention by its mere verisimilitude; indeed, any father of a young family who will take the trouble to send a shorthand writer into his nursery, may at any time provide himself with a dialogue as good in every respect as that which fills up the first twenty minutes' of the first act. This pre-Raphaelite tendency on the part of Mr. Halliday is good in its way, but it must not be carried too far. A literal report of a conversation between a farmer's daughter and a retired tradesman may amuse for a quarter of an hour; but "Daddy Gray" lasts about two hours and a half, and long before the end of the last act is reached, one feels that although Nature is a fine thing in her way, it is possible to have a good deal too much of her. It is true that farmers, and retired tradesmen, and lawyers' clerks, and milliners' girls are not ordinarily gifted with remarkable powers of repartee; and, in making them rather dull, commonplace people, Mr. Halliday has shown a conscientious regard for probability. Still, he should remember that the bulk of the audience have paid sums varying from sixpence to six shillings a head for admission, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that they expect to hear something better in the shape of dialogue than they can hear in their own domestic circles, at any time, without any payment at all.

Mr. Halliday has paid more attention to the construction of "Daddy Gray" than he did to that of "The Great City." Altogether, it is a much better piece, inasmuch as it is far less ambitious in design and much more carefully written. It possesses, moreover, a fairly interesting story, and one at least of its characters is drawn with considerable power. Its weak point lies in its dialogue (which is on that account not altogether pointless) and in the necessity which Mr. Halliday has seen for introducing two foolish comic characters altogether foreign to the piece. Mr. Halliday has been singularly fortunate in having the principal part in his piece played by Miss Carlotta Addison, who fairly astounded the house by a display of dramatic intensity with which very few of her audience were prepared to credit her. There is a singular earnestness in everything that Miss Addison does, which points her out as a genuine and conscientious artist in the highest sense of the word. I take little heed of the fact that Miss Addison received a special call at the end of each act, because this compliment is often paid where it is wholly undeserved; but I mention it as a matter of fact. In her case, at all events, the compliment was deserved. Mr. Dewar has a part which most actors would describe as "ungrateful," because "the sympathies of the audience are against it"—a peculiarity which it shares with Macbeth and Richard III., and other prominent dramatic heroes not usually considered beneath an actor's notice. In point of fact, an "ungrateful part" usually means a part that is difficult to play, and which depends for its effect as much upon the actor himself as upon the dialogue placed in his mouth by the author. This is particularly the case with Daddy Gray; and Mr. Dewar has not shown himself equal to the emergency. He plays the old man of fifty exactly as he played young Pigeon, in "Meg's Diversions." Miss Oliver has a wretched part, wholly unworthy of her singular ability. Mr. Danvers is rather more fortunate as a lawyer's clerk who becomes a betting-man. The other characters in the piece are mere outlines. But a working barrister, even in outline, should not wear a moustache; and why the young gentleman who comes into the lawyer's office in a wig and gown should have taken the trouble to decorate himself with a false moustache passes my powers of comprehension. The incidental music is a horrible nuisance, and ought to be ruthlessly expunged. Miss Oliver will do well to prohibit the members of the orchestra from remaining in front of the house during the performance. Some musical minds are so curiously constituted that they cannot resist playing a fiddle whenever they see a young lady in tears.

The K. C. Amateurs announce a dramatic performance in aid of the funds of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest (a most useful charity), to take place at St. George's Hall, Langham-place, on Friday evening, Feb. 14. The performances will include "One Touch of Nature," "The Express; or, a Brother's Sacrifice," and "The Lottery Ticket."

PARIS GOSSIP.

PARIS, Wednesday, Feb. 5.

THE Government has been bold enough to overcome its own friends, and so fortunate enough to avert a defeat which would have been worse for it than the Mexican disaster. It has carried, by an immense majority, the first clause of the Press Bill, to the utter rout of the ultra-Conservatives—of the men who are more Imperialist than the Emperor himself. If the bill would only stop there the French journals might be said to be free; but, unfortunately, what the first clause asserts in principle the remainder limit and restrain. On the whole, however, this measure is an immense step in advance; and the friends of the Empire ought to rejoice at the declaration of M. Rouher that the Emperor and the Government feel themselves strong enough to brave the untrammelled criticisms of the press.

Another triumph has been obtained in the department of the Nord, where M. des Rotours has been returned by an immense majority. This gentleman, like his father, is a devoted adherent of the Bonaparte dynasty; and his opponent, M. Gery Le Grand, is a pestilential Liberal, who is in favour of all sorts of freedom. The partisans of the official candidate spread the report that English manufacturers furnished the money to support the canvass of M. Le Grand, because the latter is a free trader and supporter of the commercial treaty. Only imagine! I have, however, no doubt that this story was believed. The whole case is to be brought before a court of law.

Socially, everything is quiet: war rumours are dying away, because France is now prepared. State balls, city balls, private balls, are the business of the evening; the streets at night are dangerous to pedestrians from the number of carriages rushing in all directions. To Parisian frivolity there never has been any

cessation, and that goes on a before; but the *res augusta domi* are thinning the crowds who whilom crammed the theatres. Receipts are frightfully falling off, notwithstanding all the doubtfully moral attractions provided.

The weather is beautiful.

MR. GLADSTONE ON SIR WALTER SCOTT.

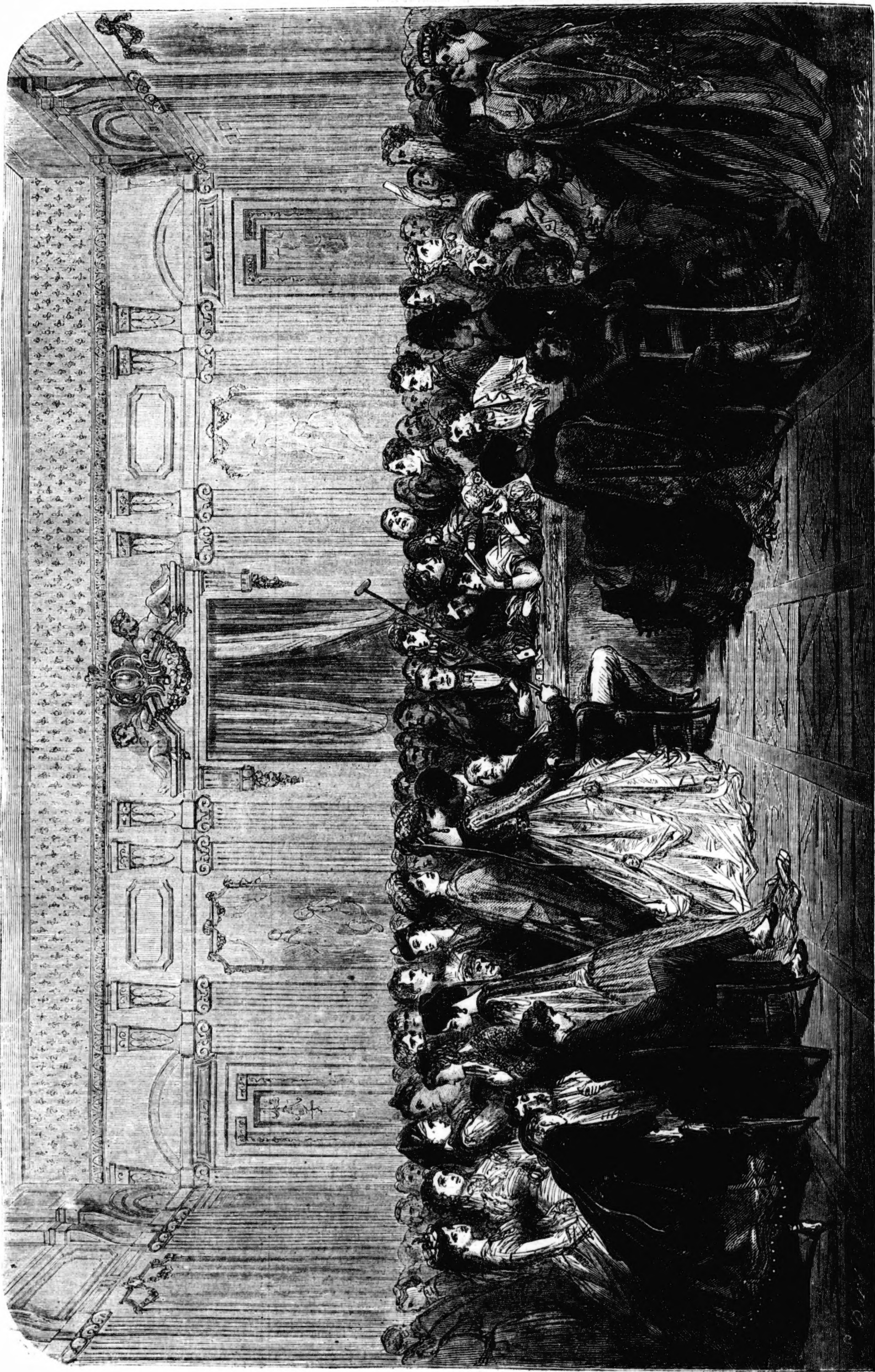
MR. GLADSTONE gave readings from Scott with a lecture (or, as he modestly styled it, some comments) at the Hawarden Literary Institution on Monday evening. The right hon. gentleman agreed with the article in the *Quarterly* that Scott is in danger of ceasing to be read, and he deeply regretted that it should be so. In considering the character of Scott as a writer of romances, Mr. Gladstone observed three things. In the first place, Scott was a great purifier. He was one of those who might claim for himself in prose that honour which belonged in great part to Wordsworth in verse, of elevating and purifying the aim of poetry, of directing it to nobler objects, and excluding from it whatever might be the temptation to pander to more depraved tastes, whatever tended to defile and to debase. Another quality in which Scott was more remarkable still was his power of reviving antiquity. He (Mr. Gladstone) did not know whether he was right, but his belief was that in that extraordinary power of calling forth from the sepulchre the dry bones of former ages, of clothing them with sinew and with flesh, causing them to live and move before our eyes, and us to live and move among them, as if we belonged to them and they belonged to us—in that peculiar and very rare power Scott was unrivalled among all the literary men that the world has ever produced. Scott grew up with Jacobite predilections, and it must be admitted that in respect to one conspicuous character he had drawn a picture that was not true, and that was the picture of Mary Queen of Scots. It was not his fault; it was the revelations that had been made by historical inquiry since his time that had chiefly tended to draw down that Queen from the elevation upon which her lamentable death had mainly availed to place her, and to exhibit her to the world in the character of a very beautiful, a very clever, but at the same time—though we might hope that she was purified by the affliction of her later days—a very bad woman. Scott did not know that; and one was almost glad that, with his affection for the Stuart family in all generations of it, he was spared the pain of those disclosures. He (Mr. Gladstone) owned that he himself grew up with something like a worship of the Queen of Scots, which was entirely due to the novels of Scott; and undoubtedly the caution ought to be taken by the readers of Scott's works with reference to that one particular instance of character, which he—not knowing, for he was a genuine lover of the truth—had been led to draw in colours different from the true ones. Scott also exhibited in his novels a tragic grandeur and pathos, such as was not exceeded in any work or any period of literature, and certainly such as was not exceeded, in his opinion, even by the noblest tragedies of the Greek poets. In conclusion, Mr. Gladstone said that Sir Walter had left us a double treasure—the memory of himself and the possession of his works. Both of those would endure. The recollection of a character so noble, so simple, so generous as his could not pass away. All that was best and highest in the age of chivalry was brought down by him into the midst of an age of invention, of criticism, of movement, of increased command over the powers of external nature, and possibly of an increasing servility to the wealth and luxury which by the use of those powers were enabled to attain. As to his works, they were immortal. Nothing but the extinction of civilisation could possibly extinguish Scott.

THE COURT.—The Queen will hold a Court at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, March 3, to receive the Corps Diplomatique, her Majesty's Ministers, and other official personages, with the ladies of their families, who will receive notification of her Majesty's gracious intention through the Lord Chamberlain. The Queen will also hold three Drawingrooms at Buckingham Palace—viz., on Thursday, March 12; Wednesday, April 1; and Tuesday, May 12, to which ladies will be admitted under the same regulations as were formerly in force at St. James's Palace. The Queen will be present at each Drawingroom as long as her Majesty's strength will permit, one of the Princesses representing the Queen during the remainder of the time. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will, as usual, hold Levées, on her Majesty's behalf, during the season at St. James's Palace.

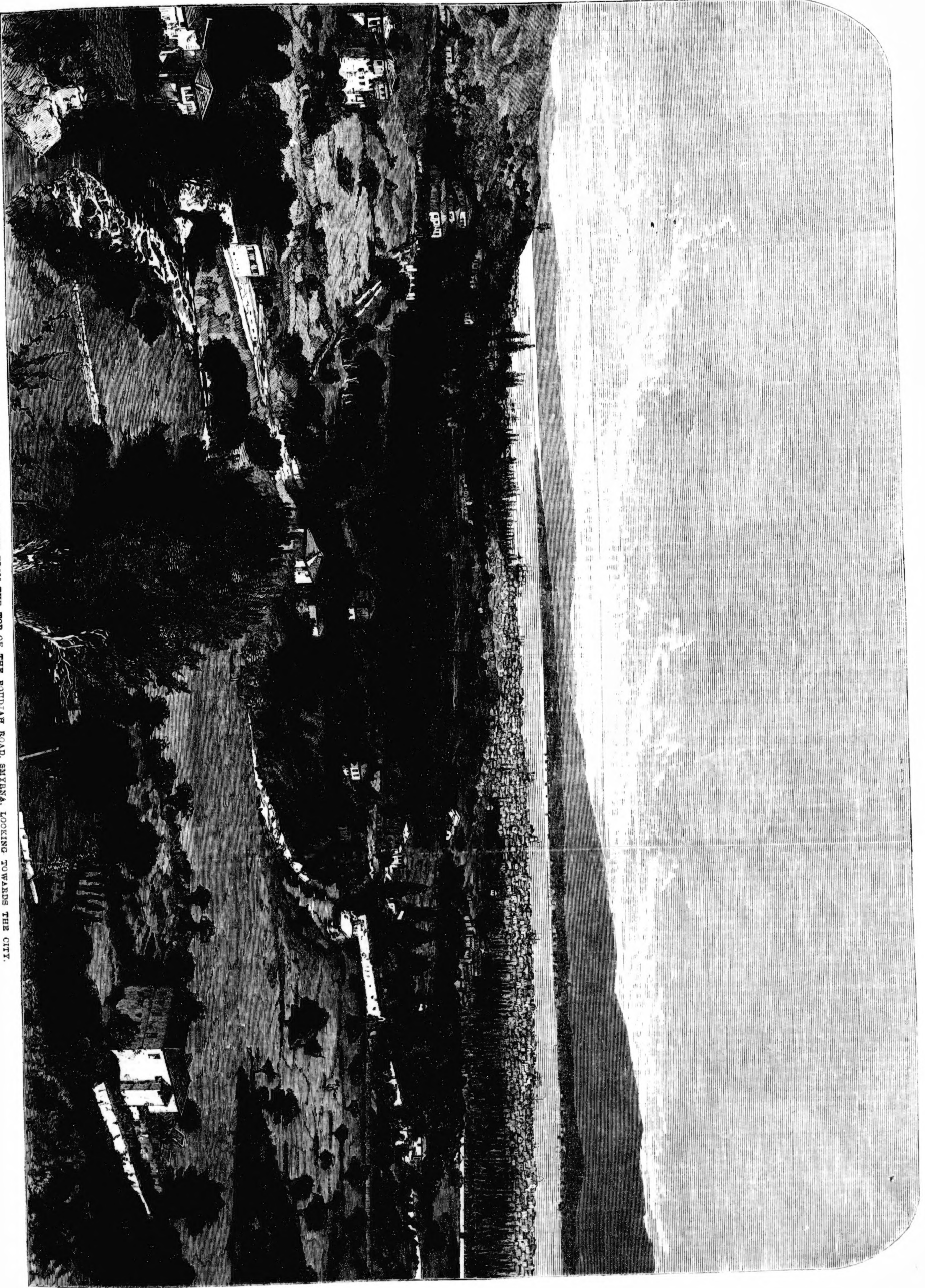
THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—Sir S. Northcote has received the following telegram from Sir Robert Napier, dated Koomagloo, Jan. 25:—"Cart road to Senafe open. One hundred and fourteen carts with supplies proceed to-morrow up the Loroo Pass towards Senafe. The most friendly relations are being established with Prince Kassai. An advance force will proceed immediately towards Antola. The shell batteries will be moved to the front. One shell battery will accompany the advance troops. All well." The *Times* also received the following telegram from its special correspondent with the Abyssinian Expedition, dated Jan. 28, and forwarded from Alexandria, Feb. 1, 12.10 p.m.:—"Sir Robert Napier has started for the front. A brigade of all arms advances to-morrow from Senafe to Antola."

NITRO-GLYCERINE AND GREEK FIRE.—The following memorandum relative to the treatment of nitro-glycerine and the extinction of Greek fire has been issued by Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Ewart, by order of the Home Secretary:—"Nitro-glycerine is not applied as an incendiary agent, and if used as an explosive it will not be scattered loosely about, but will be employed in cans or other closed vessels. If such should be discovered, they should be carefully removed, some heavy body should be attached to them, and they should be thrown into deep water, without any attempt being made to open them. True Greek fire is simply a solid, highly-combustible composition, very similar to 'carcase composition.' What is now commonly called Greek fire consists of a solution of phosphorus, or of sulphur and phosphorus in a very volatile liquid, the bi-sulphide of carbon, to which occasionally some mineral oil is added, with the view of increasing its incendiary power. When this liquid is thrown on to any surface exposed to the air, the solvent evaporates, leaving a film of the phosphorus or sulphide of phosphorus, which will then inflame spontaneously, but will not very readily set fire to wood or combustible materials. The proper mode of extinguishing the flame produced by such an incendiary agent is to throw upon the burning surface a quantity of wet or damp sand, ashes, sawdust, lime, or any other powder, or wet sacking or carpeting—any material, in short, by which the flame can be stifled by exclusion of air. No attempt should be made to remove the covering for some time after the flame has been extinguished. The place should afterwards be thoroughly scoured by playing upon it for some time with a powerful jet of water. Should any scattered liquid be discovered which has not become inflamed, it should be washed away as above directed as quickly as possible, and if a jet of water is not immediately at hand, it should in the mean time be covered in from the air by application of any of the materials named above."

MR. BRIGHT AT BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. Bright delivered a speech on Ireland, on Tuesday night, at Birmingham. The speech of Lord Stanley at Bristol was commented on by Mr. Bright as affording abundant evidence of the utter want of statesmanship in the Ministry in their ideas as to Ireland. The question had, he said, got beyond the resistance of the Tories and the tinkering of the Whigs. Then Mr. Bright described how he would have the Established Church abolished in Ireland, and religious supremacy banished from the land; and how by judicious measures he would create a farmer proprietary in Ireland instead of the present ownership of the land by absentee landlords.—A breakfast was given, on Wednesday, in Birmingham, to the artisans who had visited the Paris Exhibition in connection with the Society of Arts. The Mayor presided. Mr. Aitken, Mr. Hibbs, and Mr. Coningsby spoke, the latter gentleman suggesting an English artisans' visit to the United States. Mr. Dixon, M.P., dwelt on the importance of technical education. Without scientific training, the English workman could never be expected to rival foreigners, and especially the Americans and the French. The State should not merely encourage the desire for education, but establish the necessary schools throughout the country. Mr. Bright was present, and made a speech. He said he had been almost entrapped into speaking, for of late his mind had not been running on the subject of education. He had predicted that a thorough representation of the people would speedily be followed by the establishment of some good general system of education, and his prediction seemed likely to be fulfilled. He was not in favour of asking the Government, either by grant or by rates, to do anything for public education, except for the very lowest class of the people, who are in a condition of the most deplorable ignorance; and he did not believe in the Government making special provision for that class of people whose means are sufficient for the education of their children. He had no great faith in what is called technical training for various trades. He thought that the elements of knowledge should be given to children, and the rest should be left to themselves to acquire. He thought that, instead of asking Government for grants for local museums, such museums should be founded by public subscription in the towns that wanted them. He deprecated spasmodic efforts in the matter of education, and thought that we should aim rather at steady progress. He was glad that many of the Church and sectarian difficulties had disappeared.



"LA TAPIS VERT—LIFE AT BADEN-BADEN."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY GUSTAVE DORE, NOW ON EXHIBITION AT THE EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY.)



SVABOD'S EASTERN PHOTOGRAPHS: VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE BOUDJAE ROAD, SMYRNA, LOOKING TOWARDS THE CITY.

DORE'S "TAPIS VERT—LIFE AT BADEN-BADEN."

SOME notice of this picture has already appeared in our columns, and we have now much pleasure in laying an Engraving from it before our readers.

This remarkable painting was also exhibited in the Salon of 1867, and became at once the subject of a fierce controversy among the leading art-critics of the French capital. The artistic world was thrown into great commotion. "What is he going to do next?" was the cry. "What! the man who has illustrated the Word of God and whose remarkable genius has added new glory to the name of one of the greatest poets the world ever knew, whose masterpieces have penetrated wherever religion and civilisation have planted their sister banners! What! the Hercules of art and favourite of the loveliest muse condescending to paint plain modern women with pancake hats and long skirts and ugly modern men with chokers and swallow-tails or checkered travelling suits! Oh! *par exemple*!"

But it was done; and, in spite of those petty jealousies which form the prominent characteristics of the artistic world, in spite of the classical opposition of clasp-amateurs, few pictures ever had a greater success, for Paris rushed in crowds to the salon to see Gustave Doré's representation of real life. It was a great triumph, just before the opening of the Universal Exhibition, when Doré had declined sending any of his works to the "Champ de Mars" since the Imperial commission could not afford to allow him space for more than a dozen pictures of a limited size. The "Tapis Vert" is over 30 ft. broad and 16 ft. high. Its execution was conceived in a moment, and the picture, as now exhibited with its eighty-two figures, was finished in a very short time. It was painted for two very good reasons: first, because no antiquated rules of method or manner, and no fear of classical remonstrances, can draw a boundary for such genius; and, secondly, because as soon as Doré learnt that the "roulette" and the "trente et quarante" were to be hereafter treated as unlawful establishments, under the new constitution of Fatherland, he determined to paint one of those sensational scenes which many of us have witnessed at Baden or Homburg, as a historical legacy.

The "Tapis Vert" is a moral, and, at the same time, an exceedingly clever satire. It is illustrative of the life, manners, predilections and pursuits of a class of society left hereafter to enjoy the manifold attractions of fashionable watering-places, without the scourge that for so many years held its immoral and degrading sway in their sumptuous halls.

In one of these splendid salons the fashionable crowd is eagerly pressing round an oblong table covered with green cloth (*le tapis vert*), upon which piles of gold and bank-notes tell the tale of "noir perd et la couleur gagne," and vice versa. The principal group, upon which Doré has thrown one of his powerful effects of light is lifelike, and several of the actors are at once recognised. Both croupiers are well-known characters. There is much life and movement in the silent scene, in which thousands of pounds change hands in a few seconds. To the left of the croupier (dealer), who turns up the winning card, sits a finely-dressed woman, who cares for little else but gold. There is a remarkable expression of eagerness and curiosity upon the countenance of the lady who comes next, and who endeavours, with the assistance of her eyeglass, to find out the state of affairs. The gentleman next to her is an inveterate *blasé*. The countenance of the old man reckoning up needs no description. Near by stands a lady with a red feather in her hat, and whose lace shawl alone is worth several hundred pounds—for Doré made it. The two female figures to the left are splendidly painted. The one who causes the other croupier to turn round seems somewhat extravagantly dressed; but these costumes have been frequently worn within the last two years both at Baden and Homburg. The old lady at the end of the table, to the left, is a well-known habituée at both places. The bustling and shuffling eagerness of the figures in the background is exceedingly well rendered.

As a whole, the "Tapis Vert" is a very fine illustration of real life as met with in most of the leading German watering-places, and fame has pronounced it in many parts to have given great gratification to the visitors of all classes who have crowded together to witness its exhibition.

Since the opening of the exhibition of Doré's great pictures in London, on Dec. 24, upwards of 20,000 persons have visited the Egyptian Hall to see these masterpieces of art, which, as our readers are aware, include, besides the "Tapis Vert," "Jephthah's Daughter" and "Dante and Virgil Meeting Ugolino in the Frozen Circle" of the Inferno.

SVABODA'S EASTERN PHOTOGRAPHS—SMYRNA.

The city of Smyrna is remarkable in many respects. It has the favourite claim to be the birthplace of Homer, at the river Meles, of which we engrave Mr. Svaboda's photograph. It placed his effigies on its coins and medals, and dedicated a temple to him, to which Cicero refers. Modern Smyrna commemorates the great Ionian poet by an English Masonic lodge bearing his name. The river Meles runs through the beautiful valley of St. Ann, by the interesting ruins of the castle and fortifications erected by the enterprising Genoese. The whole spot is fraught with associations of the deepest interest in sacred and profane history. On the mountain opposite is the tomb of Tantalus; on the other hill a monument older than Homer, and attributed by him to Niobe; and a third is so old that Herodotus attributed it to Sesostrius. As one of the Apocalyptic Churches, Smyrna possesses a vivid interest in connection with religion. Its first Bishop, too, was St. Polycarp, the great martyr and early father of the Church. Its position is so happy, and its climate so fine, that, although devastated of late centuries by three dreadful earthquakes, it has always renewed its commercial prosperity, and is still a city of 200,000 inhabitants, of all nationalities—of course under Ottoman rule. It is the great entrepôt of Turkey, exporting valonia, madder, figs, cotton, &c. It has two railways into the interior, founded by English capitalists—the Smyrna and Aidin (Ephesus) and the Smyrna and Cassaba; and the Ottoman Bank, of similar origin.

Boujah and Bournabut are two beautiful suburbs where the European merchants reside, except in winter, in elegant villas they have of late years erected. The whole locality is of great interest; and Mr. Svaboda's photographs give the English observer a vivid picture and idea of the scene.

Mr. Svaboda has rendered considerable services to archaeology and the cause of exploration. He was the first to photograph, under considerable difficulty, the caves of Elephanta and other monuments of India; he was likewise the earliest portrayer of some of the buildings of Mesopotamia. He extended his labours to Syria, and while in Western Asia Minor co-operated in the archaeological investigations of Mr. Hyde Clarke, particularly with regard to the rock-cut monuments, which have resulted in the establishment of the Lyde-Assyrian group.

REPRESENTATION OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH.—Many attempts will probably be made to alter the representation of the metropolitan boroughs at the next general election. For Marylebone, Mr. Harvey Lewis and Mr. Thomas Chambers, Q.C., will offer themselves for re-election; but two other candidates are already in the field—Mr. Mason Jones and Mr. Meschen, of the Temple. For the Tower Hamlets, Mr. Butler retires in order to become a candidate for Hackney; and Mr. Saunders and Mr. Edmond Beales have already offered themselves. For Hackney, in addition to Mr. Butler, Mr. Deputy Reed, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Homer are candidates, and, it is said, Mr. Samuel Morley, but this does not appear to be certain. For Lambeth, Mr. Hughes will again offer himself, and Mr. Doulton will also probably seek re-election; Mr. R. Hartwell will be the working man's candidate. For Southwark, Mr. Locke, Q.C., and Mr. Layard will, in all probability, be re-elected without opposition. At Greenwich, Mr. Alderman Salomons and Sir Charles Bright will offer themselves for re-election; Mr. Baxter Langley will come forward on advanced Liberal principles, and it is hinted that Sir John Heron Maxwell may be a candidate in the Conservative interest. Mr. Torrens and Mr. Alderman Lusk will offer themselves for re-election in Finsbury, and no rival candidates have yet been announced. For the new borough of Chelsea three candidates are in the field—Sir Henry Hoare and Mr. C. W. Dilke, Liberals; and Viscount Ranelagh, Conservative.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

A REPORT addressed to the vice-president of the Committee of Council on Education has just been issued. It touches on technical, industrial, and professional instruction in Italy and other countries, and is by Professor Leone Levi, who has just visited, for that purpose, some centres of manufacturing industry in this and Continental countries. With reference to technical instruction, Professor Levi lays before Lord R. Montague the following suggestions:—

1. The establishment of an industrial university, or a superior technical institute, for the direction and promotion of technical, industrial, and professional instruction in the United Kingdom, as well as a normal school for teachers of science, on the foundation of the existing Royal School of Mines.
2. The establishment of chairs of lectureship, of economic and commercial, natural, and experimental sciences in connection with the same, for the delivery of public lectures at a nominal charge in the metropolis and other commercial and manufacturing towns of the United Kingdom, under the auspices of the chambers of commerce and other public bodies.
3. The formation of technical schools, with workshops, collections of tools and instruments, museums, and libraries, and of agricultural schools, with farms and gardens, in the principal towns of the kingdom, for diffusing instruction, theoretical and practical, on the sciences and arts proper to the branches of industry special to each locality, with evening classes for apprentices and others daily at work, at moderate fees. There should be schools in relation to weaving, dyeing, and mechanics, in places such as Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, and Belfast; mining schools in Truro, Newcastle, and Glasgow; navigation schools in London, Liverpool, and Greenwich; agricultural schools in Bedford and Warwick; schools of metallurgy in Birmingham, Sheffield, &c.
4. The granting of studentships to a certain number of students obtaining the highest number of marks at the public examinations in a primary school for maintenance and instruction for three years in the technical schools.
5. The formation of technical school committees in the most important places by the co-operation of the councils of the chambers of commerce and the committees of mechanics and literary institutes, with a view to the organisation and maintenance of such schools.
6. The use and adoption of existing institutions, wherever available, for the purpose of such schools.
7. The extension of grants by the Privy Council for all such schools with respect to the teaching of economic, commercial, natural, and experimental sciences, without any restriction as to the class of individuals for whom the schools are organised, in a given proportion to the amount locally contributed for buildings, instruments, &c.; and in salaries to teachers, partly by a fixed amount and partly according to results, a higher amount being given when the teacher possesses a science degree.
8. The extension of the factory laws to agricultural labour, in order that children so employed may have three clear days a week for their education.
9. The establishment of a public primary school in connection with every parish, with certified teachers, and with very nominal fees, powers being granted to the local authorities to impose a rate for the purpose. Wherever there is a workhouse or a prison there should be the best antidote—a school.
10. The introduction of science instruction in schools and colleges, in conformity with the recommendations of the committee of the British Association for the Promotion of Science, and the early introduction of the metric decimal system of weights, measures, and an international decimal coinage, to facilitate and shorten the time now employed in the study of arithmetic.
11. The formation of museums in the chief manufacturing and industrial towns, comprising, amongst other things, samples of manufactures and industry illustrative of the materials which enter into the dress of the people, and the condition of native manufactures and industry in all countries.
12. The communication to such museums of copies of models, plans, &c., obtained in Government factories, dockyards, &c., as a contribution to the diffusion of practical art.
13. The greater use of museums and galleries for the education of the masses, open in the evening for the thousands who could not visit them during the day.
14. The increase of the educational value of such museums by the appointment of professors to deliver public lectures of the sciences thereby illustrated.
15. The diminution of the evil of a profusion of talents by giving to inventors the option of taking out a patent or accepting a Parliamentary grant for a limited period, proportioned to the estimated value of the improvements, on the recommendation of a committee of experimenters acting under the Patent Law Commissioners, and greater reciprocity on the part of foreign countries with regard to the early publication of specifications of patents in full.
16. A further and more systematic inquiry as to the relative position and progress of Great Britain and other countries in manufactures and industry, and on the disadvantages to which this country is exposed in relation to trade and manufactures.

FORTIFYING POLICE STATIONS.—The Government have determined to fortify the police stations in London, it being the preliminary step to a scheme of general fortification of all the police stations and barracks in the United Kingdom. The head office of the metropolitan police force at Scotland-yard will be the first to be placed in a state of defence, and with this object Messrs. Clarke and Co., of Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, are manufacturing bullet-proof iron shutters for the windows of the station. The shutters will be so constructed that they can be closed almost instantaneously, and an apparatus adjusted inside which will make them proof against any fusillade of small-arms. The doors, it is surmised, will be similarly protected. When all the stations in the metropolis and suburban districts are provided with the bullet-proof shutters, the stations and barracks of the police in Ireland, it is stated, will next be placed in a state of defence.

NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of the Royal National Life-boat Institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the thanks of the institution, inscribed on vellum, were ordered to be presented to Captain Pin; the second service, clad to Mr. R. O. Johns, the silver medal to Martin Norris, and £28 1s. 6d. to pay the expenses of the tramcar (the Cambridge University Boat Club) life-boat of the institution in going off during a heavy gale and saving, in two trips, twenty-one persons from the ship *Oasis*, of Liverpool, which was wrecked in Brown's Bay. Rewards amounting to £342 were also ordered to be given to the crews of various life-boats of the society for their gallant services during the past month in rescuing the crews of the following wrecked vessels and for other services:—Sloop *Industry* and schooner *Mulgrave*, of Whitby, four men saved; schooner *Seven Brothers*, of Wicklow, three; schooner *Avenley*, of Nantes, one; ketch *Kate*, of Ipswich, assisted to save vessel and crew, four; schooner *Marie*, of Newport, five; schooner *Douglas Pennant*, of Carnarvon, four; schooner *Edward Stoward*, of Lancaster, five; schooner *Denbighshire Lass*, of Chester, four; schooner *Sarah Caroline*, of Gyrman, five; schooner *Anne*, of Aberystwith, four; smack *Clipper*, of Great Yarmouth, assisted to save vessel and crew, six; schooner *Mischief*, of Carnarvon, six; brig *Britain's Pride*, of Falmouth, saved vessel and crew, eight; making a total of eighty lives saved and three distressed vessels assisted by the life-boats of the institution during the heavy gales of the past month alone. The thanks of the institution, inscribed on vellum, were ordered to be given to Mr. John Walker, of Campbelltown, for his gallant conduct in volunteering to go off in that life-boat to the rescue of a shipwrecked crew. The silver medal was also granted to W. Juniper, in admiration of his bravery in jumping into the sea from the *Maude's* life-boat and rescuing a sailor who would otherwise inevitably have perished. The silver medal of the institution was also voted to Frederick Harris, Esq., inspecting officer of the coastguard at Seafield, Ireland, and to Lieutenant McMahon of the *Clare* militia; also £3 to Michael Boyle, and £10 to five other men, in acknowledgment of their bravery and perseverance in saving two persons from the brigantine *Henriette*, of Havre, which, in a gale of wind and heavy sea, was recently wrecked near Mutton Island, in the county of Galway. Several other rewards were also granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. Payments amounting to £2730 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments; and it was reported that during the past year the institution had expended £31,845 in forming new life-boat stations and in maintaining other life-boats in a state of efficiency. It was stated that the *Henry Nixon* (No. 2) life-boat, of Abergele, North Wales, had been recently forwarded to the coast. The Manchester and Salford Sunday schools have presented to the institution a life-boat for Douglas, Isle of Man, and the boat was to be publicly exhibited in Manchester this day (Saturday). A legacy of £100 had been received during the past month from the executors of the late Miss Jane Sharpe, of Whitburn. A bequest of £100 had also been left to the institution by the late David Sinclair, Esq., of Thurso. He had for many years acted as honorary secretary to its Thurso branch. It was reported that the ward-room officers of H.M.S. *Valorous* had forwarded, through Lieutenant F. C. Law, R.N., £2 8s. in aid of the funds of the institution. The proceedings then terminated.

THE THAMES SHIPBUILDERS.

It will be gratifying to the public to learn that the shipwrights and ironworkers on the Isle of Dogs, so far as the committee appointed at the meeting in Burdett Hall may be taken to represent them, show a disposition to avail themselves of the offer of employment made them by Mr. Bullivant. At that meeting Mr. Bullivant stated that he had been commissioned to give an order for one or two ships of 1000 tons each, if the men would consent to do the work at £5 a ton for the finished ironwork. Though the meeting was a very large one, and an immediate answer to the offer was asked for, the speakers who represented the mechanics went no further than to appoint a committee, composed of the various classes of the workmen, to confer with the masters on the subject of the trade generally. Having held several conferences of their own, the members of the committee invited the masters to meet them on Tuesday afternoon, in Mr. Carpenter's Mission House, Millwall. About two dozen of the men assembled on the occasion; but the only shipbuilder present was Mr. Henry Green, jun. This gentleman was called on to preside; but, in the absence of any adequate representation of the masters, the proceedings assumed the form of a mere conversation. Several of the men protested in emphatic language against the idea that they were not anxious to support the masters on fair terms and to work rather than receive charity. They said that from one end of the kingdom to the other there was now an impression that they were the cause of the depression of the shipbuilding trade on the Thames. This they denied, and they asked why the masters did not meet them and make some proposition. They contended that it was not because of any fault of theirs they found themselves out of employment, but because there was no work going for the London shipbuilders. Mr. Green assured them that the masters were by no means indifferent to the existing state of things. It was quite clear that masters and men were in the same boat. It could not be imagined that it was for the interest of the former to have their capital and machinery idle. The masters thought there was no use in coming to confer with the men until the latter had some definite proposition to lay before them. Mr. Whitmore, Presbyterian clergyman, said it would be of no use to the shipwrights and ironworkers to let it go forth that there was no work to be done; because the moment that statement was published letters would appear from parties who had ships to build, and who would give it a flat contradiction. He had interested himself in raising subscriptions for the relief of distress on the Isle of Dogs, and gentlemen had written to him on the subject of employment. From communications which he had received, he was in a position to state that two ships of 3000 tons each, and which would cost nearly £500,000, might be had from the North German Lloyd's if any builder in the Thames could take them for the price at which they could be built elsewhere; and private shipowners were prepared to give orders if the Thames builders would execute them for sums which would be accepted in the north. Captain Campbell repeated the statement he made at Burdett Hall, to the effect that owners with whom he had been in communication would even pay £1 a ton more for two ships on the Thames than they could have them built for on the Clyde. Mr. C. Owen, who, though not in any way connected with the trade, has been acting as secretary to the men's committee, expressed his opinion that the shipwrights and other yard mechanics were very anxious to treat with the masters; but he remarked that the treasurer and the secretary of the trades union would only treat with masters, and no man dare stand up at a meeting to pledge the men to the acceptance of any offer. The conversation then turned on the proposal made by Mr. Bullivant. It appeared that the men did not object to the price which he was authorised to give for one or two ships—£5 a ton for the finished ironwork, but they did decline the amount which the builder proposed to allow them to draw per day as the work progressed. This was 5s. 6d. for plateworkers, 5s. for tradesmen of the next rank, and so downwards in proportion. The men proposed that the 5s. 6d. should be raised to 6s. 4d., the 5s. to 5s. 8d., with a proportionate increase of the sums offered on the smaller wages. Mr. Bullivant said that the men were aware of the custom in all the yards to retain a certain amount of what was coming to the artisans on the particular job in which they were engaged, that sum being retained as a security to the master that the men would complete the work on the terms to which they had agreed. The men admitted that this was the custom, but contended that 10 per cent would be quite sufficient to retain, while the party represented by Mr. Bullivant would, according to their calculation, keep in hand something like 33 per cent. Mr. Bullivant was not authorised to agree to the retention of only 10 per cent, and it appeared that the committee were not then prepared to accept any other terms. Mr. Field, of the firm of Maudslay and Co., engineers, remarked that the best class of ironworkers in their house were content to draw 6s. a day, and that the greater number did not draw more than 5s. As it appeared that no result could be come to at present, further than the acceptance of the bulk sum of £5 a ton, the meeting was adjourned, it being understood that the men would have some further conferences among themselves.

IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.—The Irish Church Establishment as now maintained by the State is ridiculously over-manned. To give one instance: the suppressed see of Kilkenny, now included in the diocese of Killaloe, still contains the diocesan staff appropriate to its former dignity. There are within its boundaries forty-nine Protestant families—in all, 251 souls—the population of a hamlet, a handful of people that could probably supply a congregation of at most 150 hearers—that is, they could be packed into an ordinary drawing-room, or would, perhaps, fill one gallery in a well-sized church. How many Protestant clergymen are paid to minister to their wants? Two? three? six? Well, the "staff" is as follows:—A Dean, an Archdeacon, a Treasurer, a Rural Dean, a Vicar-General, a Registrar, four incumbents, and two Curates! It must also be remembered that the forty-nine families thus amply provided for in spiritual things include the families of the clergymen and the church officials. Of course, it is very clear that a Free Church in Ireland would never tolerate such absurdities.—*"Saint Pauls,"* edited by Anthony Trollope.

THE SHIRTMAKER IN BETHNAL-GREEN.—In one of the long lines of uniform houses that extend from end to end of the district, we entered a tenement and were directed to a little close room on the ground floor. The room was about 12 ft. by 6 ft., and in it there were a table, two chairs, a mattress laid upon the floor, and sundry bundles containing such remnants of a household of furniture and clothes as had been saved from the general wreck. The small fireplace held a little supply of burning clinders. On the table was one tallow candle, and between the two sat a woman about six-and-thirty years of age, very pale and emaciated, scantily clad, who was working hard with her needle. There were three little pallid children—one an infant of about three years, crouching by the fender and clinging to the mother's skirt; another, a little older, huddled amongst the ragged bedclothes; and the third, a girl of ten, standing near the door. The father of the family was out; but the woman, pausing in her needlework, told us he was a labourer, usually employed in the shipyards, and had been out of regular work more than twelve months. Since then they had parted with all their goods except what we saw; and from occupying a whole house they had come down to the necessity of living all in this little room. "What is the work?" I asked her. "Shirtmaking," she said.—"How much do you get for making a shirt?" "Well, Sir, they send me the cloth cut out, and for stitching the shirt, altogether, I get three halfpence."—"And how many can you do in a day?" "Working all day, as long as I can, I can manage to finish three."—"What's your husband been doing since he's been out of work?" "Well, he's been up to the stoneyard sometimes; but, at best, they only give him one day's work in the week there, and sometimes he can't get that."—"How much do they give him for his day's work?" "A quarter loaf and three pence; but lately he's thought it better not to go."—"How much do you get work about the streets—any odd job he can pick up?" "Last week he got eight pence; the week before he got about a shilling; this week he's only got sixpence."—"Well, but how do you manage to live on that?" "I don't know, Sir; but we live. Last week the clergyman gave us two tickets for soup. It was on two very cold days, and each day we got one quart of soup and a pound of bread."—"Here my companion broke in and said to me, 'Last week the central committee was able to send some tickets to the clergyman, and he distributed as many as he had.' This kind of talk went on for some minutes, and then my friend wrote out three tickets—one for two loaves of bread, one for a shilling's worth of groceries, and one for half a hundredweight of coal; and, amidst the thanks of this family, who had been relieved from trouble for another day by the expenditure of a half-crown, we left the house.—*Leader.*

Literature.

The Governor's Daughter. A Novel. By H. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS. London: Tinsley Bros.

Mr. Edwards might have improved the title of his story by calling it a "Tale of the Late Insurrection in Poland;" for, had he done so, every reader would at once have known the scene of the events to be narrated, and that the narrator was fully competent to deal with the theme he had selected, because he was thoroughly conversant with it. We don't believe there are many men in England, or perhaps, even in Poland itself, who have such a complete knowledge of the whole subject of Polish and Russian politics, and of Polish insurrections, as Mr. Sutherland Edwards. Some—perhaps, we might safely say many—novelists write about scenes, and characters, and people of which they know little or nothing from personal observation. We are frequently treated to descriptions of high life, and of the social habits, manners, and ways of dukes, lords, and honourables of all sorts, by persons who never knew of aristocratic mansions and their inhabitants more than could be learned by gazing at "the lordly halls" from outside the park-gate or from the nearest kerbstone. Pictures of low life, again, though a knowledge of that is perhaps easier of acquirement, have been furnished by men and women who never took the trouble either to see or to study the manners and customs or ways of life of the class of persons described. This, however, is not the fashion in which Mr. Sutherland Edwards does his work. He writes from actual knowledge; he paints characters from personal observation. Long residence in Russia and Poland has made him acquainted with the nature of both countries and with the idiosyncrasies of each people. And he has had the further advantage of having been present in Poland during the last effort to shake off the Muscovite yoke, and of mingling with both sets of actors in the sad drama. He is therefore thoroughly furnished for the work of depicting incidents of that melancholy page in European history—a circumstance that lends an interest and value to his work which nothing else could supply. In "The Governor's Daughter" we find real personages, scenes, and events described; and the story, as the author tells us, is at once felt to be mainly a vehicle in which to convey the knowledge he possessed of men and occurrences.

The tale opens in 1862, in London, where we are introduced to a certain Russian General Gontchalin, who is in this country on a "special mission" from his Government—said mission being to unravel the plots of "Polish patriots" here resident. The General is accompanied by his daughter, Nathalie, who, from her mother having been a Pole, has Polish sympathies, and is the heroine of the story. At the gates of the exhibition at South Kensington they encounter Stanislas Ferrari, who is the son, also by a Polish mother, of an Italian adventurer, who had risen to the rank of Colonel in the Russian army, and had left behind him a reputation that stuck in the nostrils of both Russians and Poles. Ferrari renders some trifling services to the Gontchalins, but is "cut" by the General directly he mentions his name. The beautiful Nathalie, however, does not share her father's prejudices. She not only sympathises—secretly, of course—with the Poles, but she loves the young "proscript" Ferrari, and supplies information that he and others are included on a list of "suspected persons" ordered to be arrested the moment they appear on the frontier of the Czar's dominions. We should mention, however, that Ferrari joins the "Revolutionary Committee" sitting in London, where he meets with Jankowski, "a poetical conspirator," who loves and ultimately dies for the country of his ancestors, although he had never seen it till he went there to take up arms for its deliverance. Ferrari likewise makes the acquaintance of Count Konradin, a Polish nobleman of high principle, patriotic feelings, and large property; as well as that of Boutkovitch, a Russian spy, and of several other persons who subsequently appear with more or less prominence in the story. He furthermore assists at a political reunion at the house of "Siegfried the Revolutionist," in whom the initiated reader will at once recognise the editor of the famous journal called the *Kolokol* (or *Bell*), Alexander Herzen, who imparts some curious information as to the devices by which that paper is smuggled into Russia.

The plans of the insurrectionists having approached maturity, Ferrari is sent on a mission to Warsaw, and at once becomes deep in the movement precipitated by the wholesale conscriptions of the Russian Government. The other characters in the story also make their way to the scene of action: General Gontchalin as Governor of Wilkovo; Jankowski as commander of a band of insurgents; Count Konradin as ostensibly a neutral, but really an aider of the rebellion; and Boutkovitch as a chief of police. Nathalie accompanies her father, and all the dramatic persons ultimately gather together at Wilkovo and Stanitz, a village in the neighbourhood owned by Konradin, who allows his enthusiasm to get the better of his discretion, and is made prisoner in an encounter with Cossacks; Jankowski is killed; and Ferrari, after rescuing Konradin, is himself wounded and captured. After some months of incarceration, Ferrari escapes, and reaches Cracow, in Austrian Poland, under the guise of a coachman to Nathalie, who has been sent there by her father to be out of danger. The lovers make good use of their opportunities on the way; and the story closes with their marriage, the consent of all parties being given, the old General having fallen into disgrace on account of supposed Polish leanings. That is a faint outline of the story told in Mr. Edwards's two volumes; but the details are in the highest degree interesting, and are managed with great skill. Into these we cannot further enter; but our readers, we are sure, will be glad of an extract, and so we place before them an account given of himself by one of the insurgents in the wood at Stanitz, and which Mr. Edwards calls a

STORY OF A THEATRICAL CENSOR.

I was theatrical censor and dramatic author at the same time. I wrote a piece, got a friend to copy it and send it in as his own, and then sat in judgment on it myself. The subject was "Les Horaces," or rather the Horatius and the three Curiatii; and I twisted and turned it in such a manner that everyone, or at least every Pole, would be able to see that the Horatius was Polish, and the three Curiatii, Russia, Austria, and Prussia.

My Horatius, or rather my friend's Horatius, was constantly uttering fine sentiments, all tinged more or less with patriotism. I cut everyone of them out, and destroyed many lines that were perfectly inoffensive. The supposed author protested. I told him to go about his business. He protested again. I referred him to the civil Governor, who rather plied himself on his enlightenment, and made the author come to him and read the play as I had originally written it.

The main idea escaped his Excellency, who devoted his attention to the words, and especially to the words in these speeches which I had marked out. The next day I received, as I had expected, a reprimand for having exercised my functions in a puerile and vexatious manner, and was advised to reconsider my decision and restore those of the expunged passages which evidently contained no political allusions. The Governor had heard of the Emperor Nicholas saying to the poet Pushkin, "Write, and I will be your censor," and wished to imitate him.

I restored a soliloquy in which the Horatius expressed his inextinguishable hatred of his three enemies, characterised them so that the true originals of the portraits could not fail to be recognised by our public—so quick at detecting hidden meanings—and announced his determination of dealing with them separately and vanquishing them, no matter by what means, whether by force or by fraud. Nothing to an ordinary reader could seem more tame, or, indeed, more absurd, than this speech, which the Horatius had to come on and deliver by himself, while the three Curiatii were apparently hesitating as to whether they should pursue him or not; but I knew that if it could ever be spoken on a Polish stage by a Polish actor, it would excite the enthusiasm of the audience to a pitch of frenzy.

The piece ended with the return of the victorious Horatius, who announced that, by separating his three detestable and accursed foes, he had indeed been able to destroy them singly, and that the world breathed more freely now that they were crushed. This passage I had allowed to stand from the beginning; but I had cut out one just before it, in which somebody made the common-place remark that death was better than slavery. The Governor had decided that this abstract proposition, like the rest, might be allowed to remain, and remain it did.

Well, the piece was put in rehearsal. The actors at once understood what it was all about, but rehearsed it without making any of the points they intended to make the night of the first representation.

I had been the custom at our theatre to play a Polish piece first and a Russian piece afterwards. But as everyone used to go away at the end of the Polish piece, the Governor ordered that the Russian piece should be played first. The only effect of this regulation was to make people keep away from the theatre until the Russian piece was at an end. On the evening fixed for

the production of my "Horatius and Curiatii," there were not during the performance of the Russian piece more than a dozen people in the theatre—and those dozen were Russian officers and civil functionaries; but no sooner was it over than the house was invaded at every entrance, and in a few minutes was crowded.

The Governor was in the theatre, and could not make out what the applause meant, for Horatius, from the moment of his appearance on the stage, was saluted by the whole audience as the living symbol of Poland.

The Poles had all noticed that he wore a small white eagle on his helmet. It had been proposed that the three Curiatii should display, either on their helmets or on their shields, the eagles of the three partitioning Powers; but the meaning would have been too obvious, and the representation would have been stopped at the very outset.

The applause, as it was, went on increasing at a very rapid rate; and in the third or fourth act, I forget which, when we came to the soliloquy of the Horatius, the audience rose like one man, and cheered as I should like to hear your men cheer on going into battle.

An aide-de-camp was sent round to the barracks with orders for two companies of infantry to be put under arms and kept in readiness until further notice, and some policemen in plain clothes were introduced into the theatre, but without being able to find places in the audience department, which was completely full. No attempt, however, was made to clear the theatre; and unless this had been done it would have been altogether impossible to bring the performance to an end—so delighted, so enchanted were the audience.

When Horatius, in a prophetic spirit, cursed his three enemies, and, after cursing, proceeded to kill them, shouts of joy resounded through the theatre, and the occupants of the pit and gallery went out singing, "No! Poland is not lost!"

The next morning I was sent for to the office of the military Governor, who wanted to know how I could license such a piece as the one played the night before. I referred him to the civil Governor, who was at that moment putting the manager and the principal actor through a most severe examination. Unfortunately, the author—the supposed author—was summoned; and he, like a weak-minded fool and coward as he was, being threatened, let out that it was I who had really written the piece, and that all he had done had been to copy it and send it to me at the censor's office as his own.

A Cossack was dispatched in search of me, but I was not at home; and when I heard what sort of a visitor had presented himself in my absence I determined not to go home any more. I got out of the town disguised in some theatrical costume and escaped across the frontier.

The piece was never played again; its performance on that one joyful occasion caused my ruin, and obliged me to fly to the West, that the Government might not seize me and send me, whether I liked it or not, to the far East. But I shall never forget that one night, that one happy night which I had prepared so carefully beforehand, and which was marked by such brilliant success.

It is proper to add that, while Mr. Edwards detests Russian tyranny and sympathises with the sufferings of the Poles under it, he is by no means an enthusiastic admirer of political revolutionists and conspirators; perhaps because he has seen so much of them. His views, therefore, may be accepted as those of an unprejudiced observer, for which reason his testimony is all the more valuable. The greater portion of "The Governor's Daughter" has already appeared in the *People's Journal*, from which it has been reprinted by permission of the proprietors.

Education and School. By the Rev. EDWARD THRING, M.A., late Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. Second Edition. London and Cambridge: Macmillan and Co. 1867.

Mr. Thring is the present, and, we believe, the honoured and successful head master of Uppingham School—which was formerly in a bad way, and not very long ago, in ridiculous and worse than ridiculous odour, because its former head master had birched two grown lads for being a second too late for a train, so that they did not present themselves in his Unspcakably August Presence at the time when they were due. Mr. Thring, however, is another person, and he has produced an interesting book, which may be confidently commended to the attention of parents who have sons to send to any of the great schools. It has the rather serious drawback of an extensive discursiveness, which takes from the continuity of the argument, and, still worse, arrests the sympathy of the reader at the very point where the author needs it most. Can anything be worse policy—more unfair, indeed, to the reader of a book—than to be always flinging in debatable propositions which are not necessary to the main purpose? Take the chapter on "The Classics;" and what an entangled and entangling plaidoyer you have before you! Surely Mr. Thring might have made out his case without asserting (for example) that "in the whole range of heathen literature there is not one passage that rises above a comfortable sense of the beauty of nature." Suppose the reader, rapidly throwing the argument here into the form of a syllogism, has to say *negatur minor*? Again: "The skilful disposal of drapery alone gives expression to the human form; without it the body by itself at best is a beautiful shape incapable of any high ministry, with the Curse of the Fall upon it, powerless to elevate or inspire nobler thoughts." We cannot go on with this quotation, but the portion we have copied contains, we should vehemently assert, as much error as could possibly be put into as many lines; and page 75 is as bad. Again, we turn the leaf at random and drop down upon page 137:—"There is very little want of ability in boys naturally (which boys?), but there is . . . an ingrained antagonism to learning." We should ourselves contradict both these propositions, and say, boys in general are naturally deficient in ability, but, though they have a dislike to being taught by compulsion, the idea of "an ingrained antagonism to learning" is simple nonsense. Mr. Thring was entitled to say these things or any other debatable things which he thought true, but it is not fair, after all, to tax the reader of a book at too high a rate.

Apologies of flogging, Mr. Thring has the following sentences:—"By whatever name it may be called, there is not a family in the land without 'flogging.' Someone runs messages, and shuts doors, &c. And that same one, somehow, is not generally the eldest son or eldest daughter." This statement we have to meet by a denial. Let each "family in the land" speak for itself. In the meanwhile, whatever precedent may be quoted for it, or whatever excuse, family "flogging" is, like all other flogging, a shameful thing. To train up to the highest point of nicety the self-respect of the child, to accept no service from him without thanks, to give open honour to all service whatever, and to take care that if irksome service is kind, as far as possible, equally distributed, any inequality of the kind shall be recognised, treated tenderly, and compensated by "extra" kindness, we undertake to assert that these are principles of action in some of the "families in the land;" and it scarcely appears possible that they should be mistaken principles. They cannot be carried out among a mob of boys, perhaps; but what then?

In the chapter on "Punishment" Mr. Thring unquestionably puts his foot in it. It may perhaps be true that "boys are very jealous about justice," though that does not accord with our own observation of the average boy, and reads very like a stroke of humour. Change the first noun—"Men are very jealous about justice"—and you immediately burst out laughing, and ask, In Heaven's name, which men? But that is not our point. On page 247, the subject in question being the rod or cane, Mr. Thring actually argues that boys cannot possibly think "corporal punishment degrading;" and his reason is that boys are in the habit of hitting each other. Does it not occur to Mr. Thring that there is a slight difference between a blow given in fight, or which can be returned, or which there is at least an understood right to return, and a blow, or series of blows (say a Winchester "scrubbing," or "Bibbling"), which the boy cannot return, and is understood to have no right to return?

It might almost be thought that a writer who can (to vary the image from the fact) put his own head into Chancery in this way is not likely to write a useful book. Yet we repeat our commendation of Mr. Thring's work, and hope it will do good. He is a man of high culture, and, unless we are under a wrong impression, has done work for Uppingham which entitles him to be heard with attention. With respect to flogging, we must, however, add a word or two. The cane (especially when applied to the hand) is more cruel than the birch; but it is not so "degrading." The boy punished has not the same sense of helplessness, nor is there any of that shame which ought to accompany the *toilette des condamnés*. Mr. Thring surely knows the intense suffering which, in a boy at once brave and gentle,

is involved in this shame. If a boy does not feel it, he has been badly brought up; if he has it, and is made to lose it for any purpose of "discipline," we are bold to say, the discipline is bought at a dear price. This opinion is not likely to be shared by a writer who thinks there is no expression in the human body without "skilfully-disposed drapery;" but perhaps even such a writer may be disposed to allow a little weight to the testimony of the professor (whose name we forget) who, in the recent discussions in Massachusetts which led to the total abolition of corporal punishment in the schools, stated that, during forty years' experience as a teacher, he had never found it necessary to strike a blow.

It is Mr. Thring's gratuitous discursiveness which makes it difficult to do justice to his book, and tempts a reviewer to lunge at it in so many places; and we cannot forbear one more lunge. What is, where is, that mysterious being the Boy—the boy? Boys we know, and men we know; and they differ as much as clouds, and trees, and women's faces; but the typical boy about whom it is safe to generalise is a "specimen" unknown to our own observation of life. Can he be a pure figment?

English Heraldry. By CHARLES BOUTELL, M.A., Author of "Heraldry, Historical and Popular," &c. With 450 Illustrations by R. B. Utting. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

Without having (as may be guessed) compared all extant books on heraldry for beginners, we are inclined to doubt if there can be a better one than this of Mr. Boutell. It certainly begins at the beginning, and continues to teach carefully and by degrees until the close of a goodly-sized volume. The carefully-executed drawings by Mr. Utting will be found of invaluable service to the student; and, indeed, no heraldry book would be comprehensible to the student without the assistance of the artist. Mr. Boutell is thoroughly in love with his subject; so much so, in fact, that he is wroth with those who have brought the "art and science" into contempt by making fools of themselves through ignorance and over-admiration. They have imagined their geese to be swans, and they and the geese have been ridiculed accordingly; and, indeed, heraldry and kindred subjects can easily excite laughter, and seldom more so than when in the change or spelling of a name. The Buggs becoming Norfolk Howards was such a shock to the world, that the world has never since been serious enough to inquire how the Buggs and the Howards got on. It is different, of course, when the Seymours revert to St. Man, or the Butlers to De Boteler; but when a noble Mullins died the other day, who could not have been knocked down with a feather at finding it spelt De Moleyns? Heraldry has suffered very much from foolish people, who will expect too much. They want too great an antiquity for their armorial bearings, and forget that they are mere mushrooms. Mr. Boutell almost asserts that the arms of William the Conqueror were made for him long after his death, when heraldry had become a real something of a science, which it certainly was not in his own days. Edward the Confessor's arms appear to have been invented in the reign of Henry III. But, to be more moderate and not less interesting, let us look at Lord Nelson. The Admiral did not indeed get blessed with arms dating from Noah, the first sailor—say, an ark, tossy, on a deluge azure, or "wavy," as the case may be; but he came off badly enough. Mr. Boutell objects to the literal heraldic compliments of modern times. He says, amongst the most objectionable arms of this class are those which were granted to distinguished naval and military officers—arms that certainly ought to have conferred fresh honour on illustrious names instead of inflicting dishonour upon heraldry itself. Lord Nelson, it seems, suffered grievously this way; but the Duke of Wellington luckily escaped. Certainly, between the heraldry of this kind and the ancient, there is all the difference of being prosy and being poetic; but, after all, we know which way some people would choose.

The book seems throughout to be as readable as it is earnest and explanatory.

A NEGRO DELEGATE has offered a resolution in the Georgia Legislature to the effect that "no man or woman of either race be allowed to intermarry, unless he and she, the contracting party, want to."

A GREAT BOON is to be conferred on students and users of the MSS. literature at the British Museum. The trustees have adopted the plan of the new keeper of the MSS. for having a catalogue of MSS. classified according to subjects, and in which also all the prints of each MS. will be entered.

THE CAB SCRUTINY.—Tuesday was a great day for the cabman—a kind of opening day of the season. He had to take his cab to Scotland-yard to be examined, and to be declared fit and proper, &c. It is generally a somewhat formal business; this time it was not. Sir Richard Mayne and his people examined the hackney carriages with the most attention, and declared large numbers of them to be unfit and improper, &c. The cabman was furious, and he drove off with placards posted on his vehicle, headed "Tyranny; this is a rejected cab," or words to that effect, and announcing a great meeting of the trade, to be held on Feb. 8, underneath a railway arch.

GLYCERINE.—The value of glycerine as a valuable remedy for various skin affections is now generally known and admitted; it was, therefore, both natural and desirable that it should be presented to us in the solidified, and therefore most convenient, form of a soap. So numerous are the uses and purposes to which glycerine may be applied, especially in combination with other remedial substances, that glycerine compounds abound. Unfortunately, many of these so-called mixtures of glycerine are so in little more than name; they are either destitute of that substance, contain it only in minute quantities, or, when even present in larger amount, the quality is often by no means good. This observation applies with more or less force to many of the so-called glycerine soaps, perfumes, and cosmetics. In Price's solidified glycerine, however, we possess an article of really definite composition and of superior quality, and one on which we believe that the profession and the public may fully rely. It is stated that this glycerine compound that it wears well, gives a rich lather, and that it contains over half its weight of Price's distilled glycerine, the accuracy of which statement we verified by the following percentage analysis:—Water, 21.5; fatty acids, 29.5; soda, 3.7; glycerine, 45.3; total, 100.0.—*Lancet*.

ECONOMY IN GAS.—A new and economical method of manufacturing gas from bitumen has recently been in course of trial at the Royal Arsenal Gasworks, Woolwich. The trials and experiments carried out were of a very interesting and useful nature, and the system promises to be of great advantage to the public. The trials were ordered to take place by her Majesty's Secretary of State for War, with a view, as suggested by Captain the Hon. Arthur Cochrane, C.B., of increasing the illuminating power of gas. The experiments consisted in extracting gas from bitumen alone, and also with a mixture of Durham coals, at the various rates of from 5 to 25 per cent. The gas thus produced showed on the disc, from a single burner, an equal illuminating power to fifteen standard sperm-candles, the bitumen giving off its gas with much greater rapidity than the coals. The bitumen was also tested for fuel and heating purposes, and was pronounced to be a safe resource for investment of capital in case of a failure, as anticipated, of the Scotch and West of England coal-mines. The bitumen was also tested in all the various ways most suited to gas purposes with satisfactory results. A report has been accordingly made to Sir John Pakington, and 200 tons of bitumen have been ordered by the War Department for the use of the Royal Arsenal Gasworks. The trials were made by Mr. Wallace, superintendent, by order, at the request of Captain the Hon. Arthur Cochrane, of the Steam Reserve, at Sheerness.

PHOTOGRAPHY.—The following process for obtaining direct impression on paper, especially during the winter and cloudy weather, is published by the *Moniteur de la Photographie*. The paper should first be salted by immersion in the following bath:—Chloride of sodium (common salt), 65 gms.; rain water, 375 cubic centimetres; hydrochloric acid, six drops. The paper should remain in this bath for two or three hours, and then be hung up to dry. The sensitising bath is thus composed:—Nitrate of silver, 30 cubic centim.; citric acid, 5 gms.; distilled water, 250 cubic centim. The paper should float on this bath for two or three minutes, and then be hung up as before. As soon as it is dry, or nearly so, care having been taken to remove the liquid that accumulates at the bottom or at a corner, it may be exposed on the ground-glass plate of the camera. The exposure should last three or four seconds in the sun; in dull weather as many minutes may be required, according to circumstances. A very weak image will appear; as soon as it is sufficiently distinct the paper is removed and laid on a glass plate somewhat smaller than the paper, right side upwards. The edges of the paper are folded under the glass, and in this condition the latter is laid face upwards in a large developing basin, say at the end A, raising the latter a little, so that the following solution may be poured in at the end B:—Pyrogallie acid, 8 gms.; citric acid, 4 gms.; water, 100 cubic centim. The end B should now be suddenly raised so as to flush the paper at once with the liquid, to avoid waves or lines. As soon as the lights and shades are well developed, which requires but a few seconds, take out the proof, wash under a stop-cock, fix with 30 gms. of hyposulphite of soda dissolved in 500 cubic centim. of water for ten minutes, wash again, and dry the proof.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.

We have already published full details of the landing of the body of the late Emperor Maximilian at Trieste. One of our Engravings this week represents the funeral procession moving along the Molo San Carlo for the railway station. Major-General the Duke of Wirtemberg headed the escort of troops, followed by the municipal authorities, the clergy, the funeral car decorated with wreaths and flowers, the Archdukes, Admiral Tegethoff, the representatives of foreign Powers, the Generals and other military officers,

and the Consuls. The members of the civic guilds, sailors, and troops closed the procession. And thus it was that the people of Trieste took their last farewell of him who had once been a familiar and beloved figure amongst them.

On the 17th ult. a special train arrived at Vienna with the Emperor's remains, which were borne to the Hofburg with great funeral pomp. The procession was accompanied by a military escort and the highest Court officials. An immense crowd lined the streets, who all displayed the greatest sympathy. At the Hofburg the procession was received by the

whole Imperial family. The funeral obsequies of the late Emperor took place in the afternoon of the 18th. The remains were deposited in the Imperial crypt in the Capuchin Church. Immense crowds of people filled the streets, and testified their sympathy for the deceased Sovereign.

THE COAL SERVICE ON THE SUEZ CANAL.

We have from time to time published such particulars of the progress of

the works at the Suez Canal as would suffice to acquaint our readers with the condition and prospects of that undertaking; and our illustration this week represents the most recent achievement in connection with the completed operations of the channel between Ismailia and Suez. The establishment of a traffic between the two seas has, it seems, been accomplished, according to the promise of M. de Lesseps, partly upon the maritime and partly on the fresh-water canal, and it cannot be denied that such a victory achieved in the ancient desert is one of the most remarkable results of modern engineering skill. Already the evidence and appliances of civiliza-



FUNERAL OF THE LATE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN: THE CORTÈGE ON THE MOLO SAN CARLO, TRIESTE.

tion are to be found in the places opened up by the new route; and the numerous commercial agencies settled at Port Said and Ismailia render it necessary that the service should be regularly conducted. It is said that ninety per cent will be saved in freights by the use of the canal instead of the Egyptian Railway in crossing the isthmus with merchandise, and the official returns give the receipts of the first two months of last year as 1,050,221*l.*, of which 231,996*l.* were received in October—an amount about equal to the entire receipts of the first three months of the opening of the traffic. Our Engraving represents a train of coal-barges which have just quitted Ismailia, the town in the centre of the isthmus, and are about to descend to Suez by the canal of sweet water. The barges are accompanied by a vessel of 100 tons—

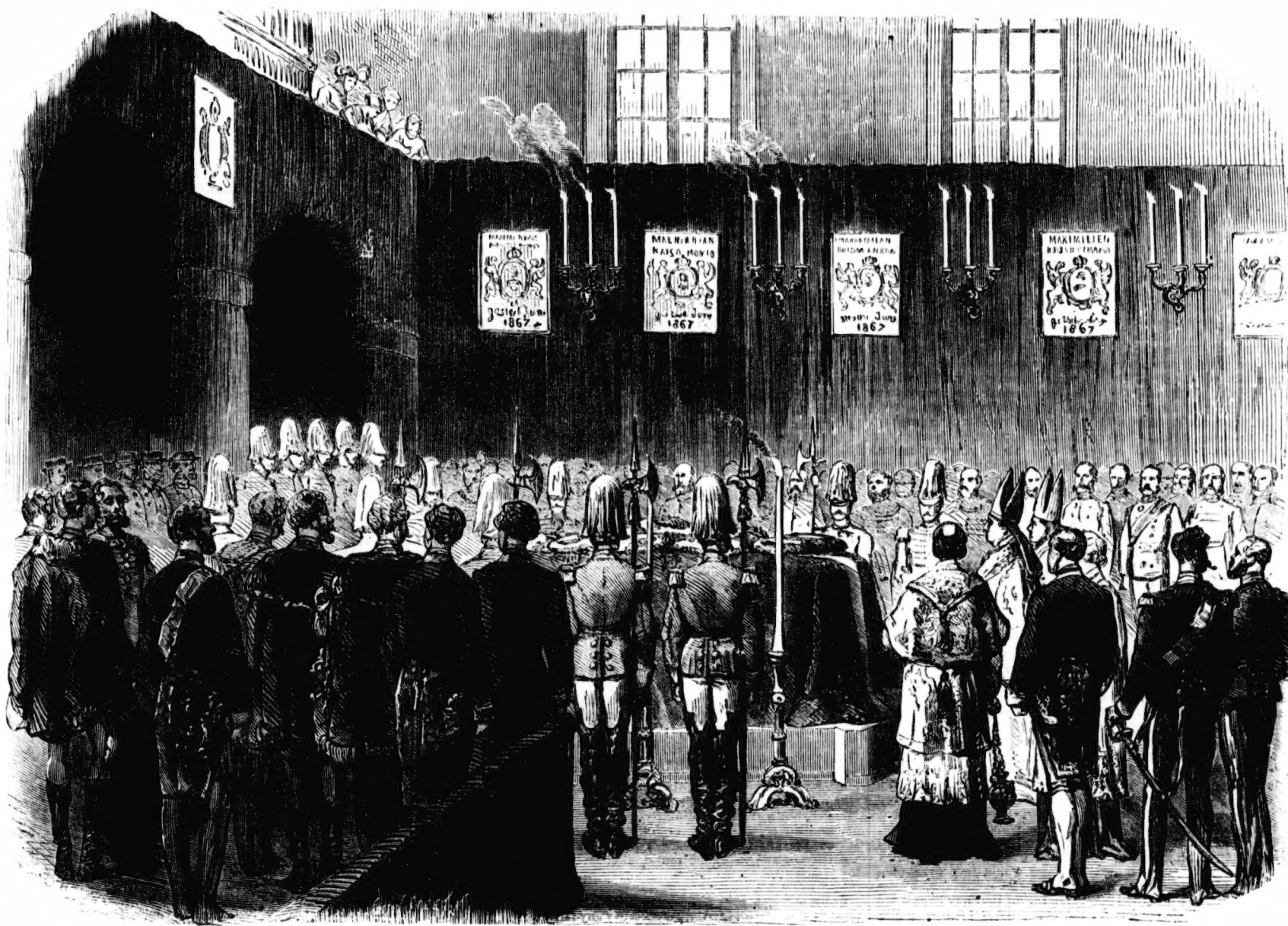
the Suzette, from Marseilles, which passed from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea by the Suez Canal, which is being towed down with them. The passage has also been made by a Greek vessel, the Phanéromanie, from Port Said to Suez. Ismailia, with its 5000 inhabitants, is the actual capital of the isthmus, and has created in the desert a point of junction between the two silent highways, the maritime canal and that of the fresh water of the Nile, on the borders of Lake Timsah. Of course, all sorts of commercial success is now predicted for the scheme which M. de Lesseps went to Paris to advocate during the Great Exhibition; and the date for opening the grand navigable canal is definitely fixed for Oct. 1, 1869, the calculations of the engineers and the present state of the works justifying such a promise.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

(From the "Times.")

THE new police may be said to have been virtually established in 1830. At that time they were simply meant as "watchmen," and to take on themselves, day and night, the duties which the infirm and drunken old "Charleys" had till then been supposed to discharge. Until then no regular day watch was ever kept in London. Now the day duty is almost as important as the night, and ten times more important than it was thought it would ever be at that time. The police began with a force of 3274 men, all told. The sphere over which their duties and authority extended was within a circle of ten miles round Charing-cross, and the

population they had to guard and supervise was a little over one million and a half. But in 1839 their area of duty was doubled—that is to say, it was extended from ten miles round Charing-cross to fifteen miles round Charing-cross, thus taking in the whole of the county of Middlesex and many parishes in the counties of Surrey, Kent, Essex, and Hertford, exclusive, of course, of the city of London, which has a numerous and well-organised police of its own. At the present date the metropolitan police numbers 7782 men of all ranks, and this small number has to protect a population of more than 3,400,000. This discrepancy is bad enough on the face of it, but it becomes alarmingly great when we look into it. Thus, of the 7782 men of whom the force is nominally composed, experience has shown that a deduction of at least 10 per cent must always be made

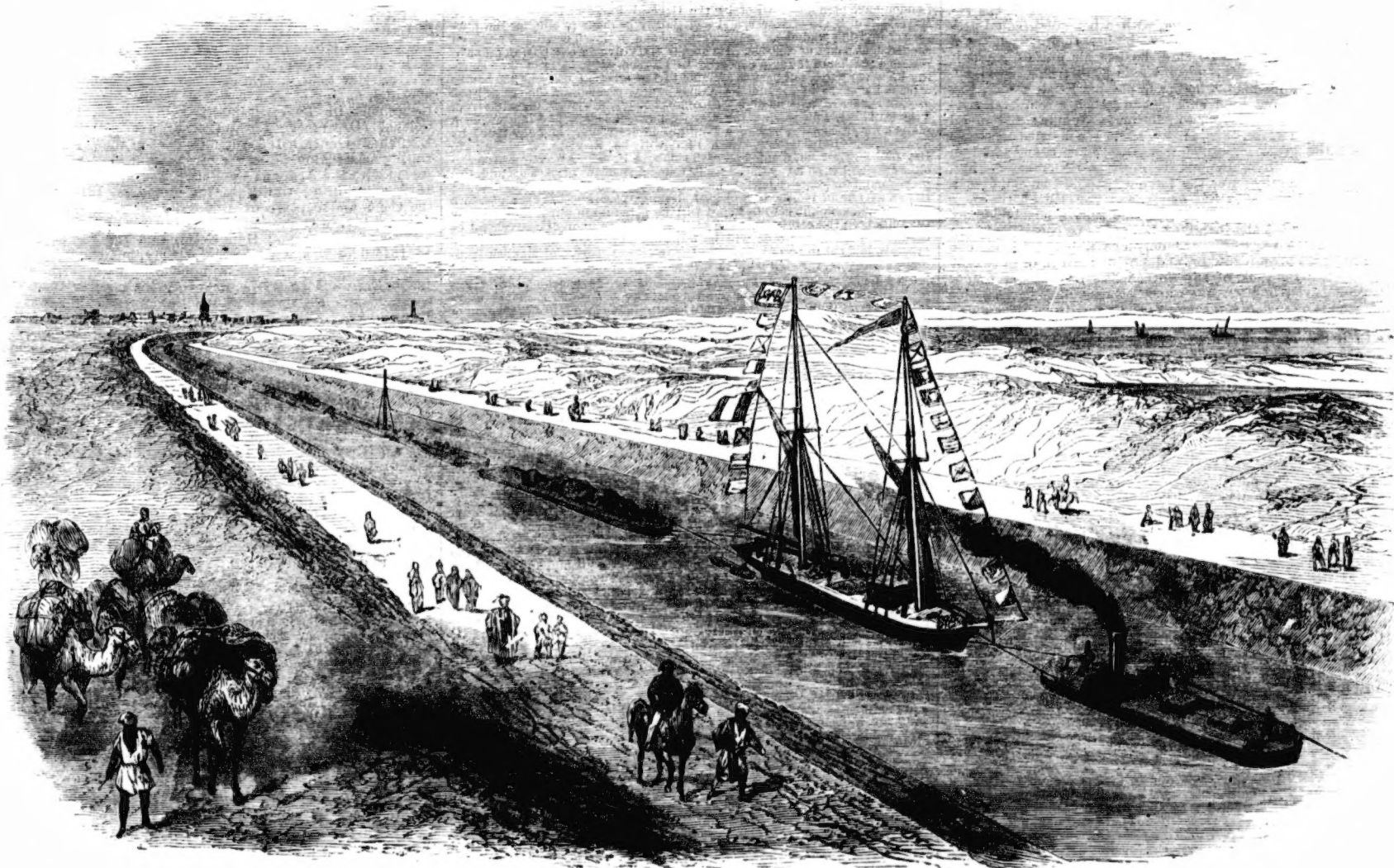


FUNERAL OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN: BENEDICTION ON THE BODY AT THE CHURCH OF THE CAPUCHINS, VIENNA.

for sick, injured, and absent on leave. Still greater than this, however, is the reduction which has to be made for a class of "special duties" which has grown up of late years and become at last an absolute daily necessity. We mean such special duties as those of guarding the palaces, the Houses of Parliament, Record Offices, public museums, and public buildings. These duties absorb no less than 1200 men, leaving actually no more than 5800 to guard an area of 700 square miles and protect a population of nearly three millions and a half of people—that is to say, more than the population of all Scotland, and more than two thirds of the population of all Ireland. At present the metropolitan police, if we allow for these deductions for sickness and special duty, are actually only in the ratio of one to about 600 of the population.

Yet this disproportion of police to people becomes even more astounding when we look not alone at the population, but the area which they have to guard. People live so fast nowadays that they naturally forget the landmarks of the changes they have left behind them. 1830 is nearly forty years ago, and how has London changed since then! Since 1850 alone—that is to say, within the last seventeen years—177,420 new houses have been built within the metropolitan police district, making no less than 4413 new streets, fifty-six new squares, and adding 769 miles to the beats which the police have specially to patrol. At the present time 7097 new houses are being erected in this district—that is to say, an important town is being added to London every year. One or two policemen thirty years ago were sufficient guard for the then swampy fields on which

all Bayswater and Tyburnia now stand. So also with the meadows round Islington, on which rows of terraces and villas have since arisen. Within the last twenty years the only duty of the police round Norwood andulse-hill was to prevent vagrants cutting the trees or snaring the rabbits in the woods belonging to Dulwich College on which now stand the Crystal Palace and its surrounding mansions. The truth is plain, therefore, that the increase of the police has not alone lagged behind the increase of the population, but is lamentably deficient as regards the space over which they now have to do duty. Nothing can better illustrate this than a comparison of the duties which the metropolitan police have to perform over this ever-growing area with the duties which the City police have to discharge within a



COAL TRAFFIC ON THE SUEZ CANAL.

small space, which, of course, cannot be enlarged. The ratio of force to area, then, is in the City police one man to 12.10 acres; in the metropolitan police, one man to 72 acres. In the City police there is one man to 184 persons, and in the metropolitan one to nearly 600. In short, the City police has to protect 112,063 persons, and the Metropolitan force 3,410,654. We are not making these comparisons in a manner at all invidious to the City force, who are a most able and vigilant body of men, by no means overpaid, though their pay considerably exceeds that of their overworked metropolitan brethren, who are so much underpaid as to materially affect the efficiency of the whole force. It may be said that there is no need of offering higher pay for the metropolitan police if they can get plenty of men at the price they now proffer. But there is a limit even to this rule of political economy, inasmuch as the men now to be got are not the class of men wanted; and when a superior man presents himself he generally enters the police as a "stand-by" till something better turns up; and by the time he has become thoroughly efficient, as soon as an opportunity presents itself he leaves the police. And, strange as it may seem to some of our readers, it is nevertheless true that it takes as long to train an efficient policeman as to make an efficient soldier.

The whole area of the metropolitan police district is a little over 700 square miles, which is divided into twenty-one divisions, including the Thames (a water division), each governed by a superintendent. Each division is divided into sub-divisions, and these, again, into sections, which are again subdivided into beats. The policemen have charge of the beats, the sergeants have charge of the sections, the inspectors of the sub-divisions, and the superintendents of the whole division. Every division is in direct communication by telegraph with the great central office, Scotland-yard, which is also connected in the same manner with all the chief fire stations, so that literally in one minute every division and fire station in the metropolis could be alarmed and their reserves moved on any given point. In addition to this force, there has of late years grown up a special detective force of one chief inspector, three inspectors, and fifteen sergeants, who are all stationed at the chief office, Scotland-yard, and receive their instructions direct from Sir Richard Mayne. The number of men employed on police duty proper—that is, in watching and patrolling the streets—is divided as follows:—two thirds, or, in round numbers, about 4000 men, by night, and one third, or about 2000 men, by day. The night duty men have always eight hours—that is, from ten p.m. to six a.m., and they have this for eight months of the year, and then four months of day duty; and every man in the force takes his turn of night and day duty—the former, of course, as requiring double the number of men, having to be performed for a double space of time. The day duty is from six a.m. to ten p.m., and is divided into reliefs thus:—The first relief comes on from six a.m. to nine a.m.; the second relief from nine a.m. to three p.m.; the first relief again from three p.m. to ten p.m., and the second from seven p.m. to ten p.m. Thus there are more policemen on duty between seven and ten in the evening than at any other time of the day, long experience having proved to the police that it is between these hours that most thefts and depredations are attempted. Each man, therefore, has eight hours' night patrolling without pause for eight months of the year, and ten hours' day patrolling for four months in the year, every day, Sundays and all public holidays included. It may be said that the London postmen are nearly as hard-worked, and not better paid, which is almost true. But the London postman has all Exeter Hall at his back, and if he were asked to make even an eight o'clock morning delivery of letters on Sundays there would be a great outcry; but no one raises a voice on behalf of the policeman, whose duties on Sundays are absolutely doubled, for on that day houses are often empty and people are out for the evening. Of course, police duty must be done on that as well as other days; but it is at least worth inquiring whether a small addition to the force might not enable the men to have alternate Sundays as days of rest. At present 365 days' actual duty is required for the year's pay, and it cannot be otherwise while the force remains at its present minimum strength. With these facts before them, and remembering the fearful weather to which they are often exposed, to say nothing of risks arising from violence, few will be inclined to deny that the police are a most hard-worked body of men; and the duty will appear all the more onerous when the qualifications which are considered indispensable to its discharge are looked at side by side with the remuneration offered in return.

To enter the police as constable a man must bring a long and unimpeachable character for honesty, industry, sobriety, intelligence, and good temper. He must, of course, be in perfect health, under thirty-five years of age, and if married must not have more than two children. He must read, write, and cipher well, and his wife must carry on no trade or business of any kind. Yet for fulfilling all these conditions, which manifestly (except in the case of only two children) imply a first-rate man of the working classes, the remuneration offered is only 19s. a week, with a hope of gradual promotion to 21s., 23s., and 25s. weekly—higher than which, as a constable, he cannot go. To be sure, he has his uniform, and if married 40 lb. of coals a week, and if single 20 lb.; but this is all. Now, even with a single man, who has to pay his lodging rent, 19s. a week is not much more than sufficient to feed a strong man who has long hours of heavy labour to perform at all hours and in all weathers. So much worse, then, must it be for the married constable (and they are the great majority) who has the wife and children to keep as well as himself, and it must be remembered that, though a policeman may enter the force with only two children, a few years may find him with five or six, and yet still on the same 19s. with which he started. It may be said that a constable may hope to rise to sergeant and inspector, but only one constable in ten can ever hope to be a sergeant, and only one sergeant in ten can ever hope to be made an inspector, and not one inspector in twenty can hope to reach the rank of superintendent. Still, the argument of promotion is worth discussing; and let us look at it. An able constable who is offered a sergeant's vacancy has to go through an educational examination which, ten years ago, would have broken half the Civil Service candidates. The arithmetic and writing he has to do are, perhaps, in these days not thought so dreadful as they used to be; but he has to draw out hypothetical cases of police charges and to give answers in writing to such cases, stating whether he would detain or liberate prisoners under such and such circumstances, and his reasons in writing for or against. Yet, when all this has been done, he only attains to 26s. a week, with a prospect of rising in the future to 28s. The examination for inspector is, of course, still more severe, and that for superintendent is one which only able men, long and practically acquainted with the most minute working details of the police force and police duty, could hope to pass. Yet in each case when the post is attained the reward is inadequate to the duties and responsibilities it entails. The public have only to look at three things—1st, that the police service now requires a much higher class of men than was thought necessary when they started as watchmen in 1830; 2nd, that the growth of the force has by no means kept pace with the growth of the metropolis they have to guard; 3rd, that 19s. a week now is not much more than equal to 14s. a week forty years ago. The deduction is obvious. Not only must the force be increased, but the pay must be such as to induce good men to enter, and, above all, when entered, to remain in the service. Entering the police force should, in its pay and future rewards, be held out as an object of ambition to able and respectable men, and not regarded, as it is now, by the most intelligent constables, as a mere resource against want, to be retained only till something better presents itself.

AN ATROCIOUS MURDER is reported from Dumfriesshire. A young man, only twenty years of age, named Robert Smith, on Saturday evening robbed a girl aged fourteen, and murdered her by hanging, in a wood near a place called Cummertrees. He afterwards entered a cottage, and stabbed a woman so badly about the neck, that her recovery is said to be doubtful. The bloodthirsty miscreant was apprehended the next day at Carlisle.

A CABMAN'S STRIKE has taken place in Liverpool, the Jehus objecting to paint their rate of fares on the outside of their cabs and to carry lamps.

CONCERTS.

MR. ARTHUR CHAPPELL'S Saturday morning concert—"Monday Populars," in which nothing is changed except the day—have now recommenced. The first of the new series took place on Saturday last, when the programme was made up of pieces by Mozart (whose quintet in D major was the opening work), Schumann (represented by two of his most characteristic songs), Beethoven (the Waldstein sonata), and Mendelssohn (the song, "Questions and Reflections"), the entertainment closing with Schumann's quintet in E flat. The songs by Schumann are a charming specimen of a style of music in which that composer excelled, and by which, in England at least, he is far more likely to gain a great name than by his complicated, and to most audiences impenetrable, instrumental pieces. The English public have hitherto shown but little sympathy for Schumann's orchestral and chamber music—which may, it is true, be only a sign of incapacity on the part of the English public; but his songs touch the heart of all hearers, and some of them are models of poetical passionate writing for voice and piano. The great feature, however, of Saturday's concert was the performance of the Waldstein sonata by M^{me}. Schumann. The great German pianist seems to entertain a very natural predilection for this magnificent work, which is well suited to her impetuous, energetic style of playing. There is no more striking motive in the whole collection of Beethoven's sonatas—incomparably and by many times the richest mine of melody that exists—than the simple, bold, once-heard-never-to-be-forgotten phrase on which the allegro and presto of the sonata dedicated to Count Waldstein are built. On this, as on previous occasions, M^{me}. Schumann played the whole work with characteristic enthusiasm, and her masterly performance was duly appreciated by a large audience.

At the last Monday Popular Concert (properly so called) the most remarkable piece was Schubert's thoroughly beautiful ottet, executed by such a compact, well-balanced, in all respects perfect band as it would be impossible to get together on the full-orchestra scale. Herr Straus led, with Mr. L. Ries as second violin, Mr. Henry Blagrove as viola, Signor Piatti as violoncello, and Mr. Reynolds as double bass; clarinet, Mr. Lazarus; horn, Mr. C. Harper; bassoon, Mr. Winterbottom. M^{me}. Schumann played Beethoven's "Sonata Appassionata;" and joined Signor Piatti in the same master's sonata in A major for pianoforte and violoncello. The Crystal Palace Concert of last Saturday was highly interesting, including, as it did, Spohr's celebrated symphony, "The Power of Sound;" the second of Beethoven's four overtures to "Fidelio;" and Mendelssohn's posthumous funeral march. At the concert of to-day a new vocalist, M^{lle}. Winter, of whom great things are expected, is to make her debut. M^{lle}. Winter is the daughter of one of our most distinguished solo instrumentalists, and has certainly been educated in a good musical school.

The first of Mr. Henry Leslie's orchestral and choral concerts was to take place on Friday. The programme was composed of Mendelssohn's (Edipus music; Weber's Concert-stück (Herr Pauer); Beethoven's choral fantasia; and a selection of vocal music by Glück, Mozart, and Handel. The second concert will—like those by which Mr. Henry Leslie first made his reputation as a chorus-master and conductor—consist entirely of madrigals and part-songs. Gounod's mass ("Messe solennelle") is promised for Feb. 20; Mendelssohn's "Reformation Symphony" for March 5; a selection of English songs, glees, and choruses, chiefly by Bishop, for March 12; and Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream music, a portion of the Antigone music, Beethoven's violin concerto, &c., for March 19.

ROME, although it is now carnival time, is said to be like a tomb; the theatres are deserted, and there are scarcely any foreigners in the city.

THE REV. NEWMAN HALL ON AMERICA.—The Rev. Newman Hall delivered a lecture, on Tuesday night, on America, at Exeter Hall. The rev. gentleman devoted the greater part of his address to a discussion of the position occupied by the various churches in America. In Canada and in New England the system of Established Churches had, he said, at one time existed. Now, neither in the United States nor in Canada were there any establishments, and it was the universal opinion—not of infidels, not of indifferentists, but of pious God-fearing men—that the interests of religion had in no way suffered by the change. The members of the various sects were most zealous in building and beautifying churches, and to the latter point more attention was paid in America than in England. There were no invidious distinctions made between "church" and "chapel," "minister" and "clergyman." Episcopalianism in the United States rested upon a popular basis; the congregations had a voice in all ecclesiastical matters; laymen sat with the bench of Bishops in the Supreme Court of Appeal; and, of course, such a thing as the sale of a charge of souls by an auctioneer or its gift by a Minister of State was unknown. Touching the position of the temperance cause in the States, he said that the Maine Law had, he was sorry to state, proved inoperative, and would, he believed, shortly be repealed, and a strict excise law, such as was in force in New York, substituted for it.

SOUTHWARK PARK.—The plans for the formation of a park for South London have been approved of by the General Purposes Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and will shortly be made public, for the purpose of inviting tenders for the execution of the work. The ground has been acquired, at a cost of £60,000. Its area is sixty-five acres; but, in order to recoup a portion of the sum expended in its formation, belts of land skirting its wider parts will be appropriated to the erection of some 300 houses of such a class as to command a yearly rental of about £50. In all, the ground thus used will be about fifteen acres. The visitor, entering from Jamaica Level, will, passing the already finished lodge, find himself on a plateau for promenade, having a fountain in its centre, and environed by flower-beds. Immediately before him will be a vista, extending to Deptford Lower-road, planted on each side with limes. An avenue of horse-chestnuts will wind away to the right, round a spacious cricket-ground, to a play-ground for younger lads than those likely to join cricket clubs; to the left an avenue of planes is projected, leading past another open plot to a gymnasium, which it is to be hoped will be fitted up in a more liberal way than has been the case with some others. On each hand of the central or lime-tree walk flower-beds will be formed, backed up with ornamental grounds, laid out in accordance with the received theories of English landscape gardening, through which paths will lead to the various grounds.

THE LATE ACCIDENT AT NAPLES.—The accident which has taken place at Naples does not appear to be in any way connected with the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. It occurred about eight o'clock in the evening of the 28th ult., at Santa Lucia, and was occasioned by the fall of a part of the steep cliffs of Pizzofalcone. Three houses were at once buried beneath the ruins, and it is said that a coach and a cart drawn by bullocks, that were passing at the time, shared the same fate. The *Roma* calculates that the number of persons who have perished is about sixty. The *Patria* estimates the number at sixty or seventy. Great efforts were being made by the authorities, aided by the military, to extricate those buried beneath the ruins, some of whom were believed to be alive. Up to the latest advices, three dead bodies had been recovered. The excitement throughout Naples was intense. A letter from Naples, dated the 29th, gives the following account of the catastrophe:—"This town has been afflicted by a dreadful catastrophe, by which many persons have lost their lives. Those of your readers who have been at Naples will remember the way by Santa Lucia to the Chiaianone, passing between the ancient villa of Lucullus, now Castel dell' Uovo, and the precipitous cliffs of Pizzofalcone. Last evening, shortly before eight, part of the cliff became loosened, and, rushing down with a horrid crash, buried the houses beneath its ruins. The shock was felt all around, and the barracks at the top of the cliff, as well as the neighbouring houses below, are in a very unsafe condition, and have been cleared of their inhabitants. The ruined houses, on account of the confined space on which they were built, were fortunately not so large as Neapolitan houses usually are. Still it is feared that from seventy to eighty persons may have been in them at the time; amongst others, it is said, some foreigners just arrived by train from Rome, and who were going to their hotel in an omnibus, passing that way as the cliff fell. Some wonderful escapes are related. The owner of a coral-shop had just shut his shop and had gone only a few yards when the crash came, and he stood there safe in person but a ruined man. A café, full, was buried, but the vaulted ceiling resisted the pressure, and the inmates were enabled to make their exit through a fissure in the walls not quite blocked up. Next the café was a winery; that is, however, completely buried, but it is hoped that it, like the café, will have resisted the shock, and that the people there at the time may still be got out safe, a hope that is strengthened by the shoutings which are heard proceeding from beneath the ruins. The news spread rapidly, and all the authorities were soon on the spot; cordons were formed to keep off the mob, and the military were at once set to work by the electric light to clear away the ruins. As I write, the scene is most remarkable. All Naples seems to be flocking to the spot, and the excitement is intense as a mutilated corpse or some wounded person, still alive, is extricated from the ruins, and these latter are carried off in the military ambulances to the hospital of the Pellegrini; in fact, the excitement is so great that the Prefect has published an address to the citizens inculcating calmness and order."

THE DISTRESS IN THE EAST OF LONDON.

ON Monday the United Executive Committee, formed pursuant to a resolution passed on Friday last at a conference of the various societies for the relief of the distress in the East-End, held a meeting at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, who has kindly placed a room at their disposal and consented to act as treasurer. The committee has been embodied with the view to united action, in co-operation with the guardians of the poor, in carrying out an efficient and uniform system of relief of cases of temporary and exceptional distress, in the hope of coping with the extraordinary and deep-seated poverty in that part of the metropolis. Besides the Lord Mayor, there were present—Mr. Samuda, M.P., Mr. Corbett (poor-law inspector), Mr. J. R. Ravenhill, Mr. E. H. Currie, Mr. C. H. Wigram, Mr. Robert Wigram, Mr. T. B. Spence, the Rev. J. Caparn, the Rev. B. Kingsford, Mr. J. Hassard, the Rev. Septimus Hansard, the Rev. T. J. Rowsell (representing the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association), Colonel Haygarth (representing the Society for the Relief of Distress), Mr. S. Charrington, and Mr. Newton. A letter from Miss Burdett Coutts was read, expressive of sympathy with the movement. The primary object of the meeting was to complete their own organisation, and to agree to a principle of action in relieving, to the extent of the means the public may place at their disposal, the special and exceptional distress. The first subject brought under consideration, and that incidentally, was the alienation from the United Executive Committee of the East London Mission, and upon that subject the Rev. T. J. Rowsell took occasion to suggest that if the two could not amalgamate they might yet so far co-operate as to prevent the distraction of the public mind in the desire to contribute money for the mitigation of the prevailing distress. One great object, he said, was to prevent two concurrent bodies distributing relief in the same districts—a system which went to demoralise the poor. Mr. Samuda said a most important thing, for many reasons, was to let the public understand that the intention of the united committee was to assist in dealing with the distress where, for the time, the magnitude of it was beyond the power of the poor law to cope with; in other words, to deal with exceptional privation, but still in such a manner as to avoid impoverishing the districts. There was a strong public feeling adverse to helping men who were the means of preventing workmen coming into the neighbourhood. Mr. Samuda added he had heard that 10,000 clerks had been thrown out of employment since May, 1866, and that many of them, having no other resource, had been driven to enlist in the Army. Eventually, after some further conversation, the meeting passed a unanimous resolution to the effect that, as a principle, relief should not be given in cases where the parties were in receipt of relief from the guardians of the poor, it being the intention of the committee to relieve generally such persons as, from the extent of the present exceptional distress arising from the existing stagnation of trade, may be in temporary privation, and whom timely relief might save from becoming paupers. The secretary (Mr. Haly) stated that since Saturday last, when the united committee was organised, subscriptions amounting to nearly £500 in all had been received. It was mentioned incidentally in the course of the proceedings that in all the unions in the districts over which the committee proposed to work the outdoor relief was now uniform.

OBITUARY.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR GEORGE C. WHITLOCK, K.C.B.—The colonelcy of the 108th Regiment (Madras Infantry) is vacant by the death of Lieutenant-General Sir George Cornish Whitlock, K.C.B., who died last week. The gallant officer, who was son of Mr. George Whitlock, of Ottery St. Mary, Devon, entered the military service of the East India Company in 1818, and was attached to the Madras Presidency, in which army he served with great distinction. In 1845 he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the 3rd Madras European Regiment. In 1858 he greatly distinguished himself with the force under his command in Central India, and captured Banda from the rebels in April that year, the force under his command acting in conjunction with the victorious troops commanded by General Sir Hugh Rose (Lord Strathnairn). He had previously, in 1855, as Brigadier-General of the second class, commanded at Bangalore. For his eminent services in Central India he was, in 1859, made an extra Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, and in further recognition of his distinguished services was appointed in September, 1862, Colonel of the 108th Regiment, when the several regiments of the Indian army were amalgamated with the Queen's army. His commissions bore date as follows:—Ensign, June 4, 1818; Lieutenant, Dec. 20, 1818; Captain, July 16, 1831; Major, July 31, 1840; Lieutenant-Colonel, Sept. 22, 1845; Colonel, June 20, 1854; Major-General, June 27, 1857; and Lieutenant-General, April 9, 1864.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR M. WHITE, K.C.B.—The death is announced of Lieutenant-General Sir Michael White, K.C.B., Colonel of the 7th Dragoon Guards, at the age of seventy-six. He was a son of Major Robert White, of the 27th Dragoons, and was educated at Westminster School. He left that establishment at a very early age, and, having entered the 24th Light Dragoons in 1804, became Lieutenant in 1805; Captain, 1815; Major, 1839; Lieutenant-Colonel (December), 1839; Colonel, 1846; Major-General, 1854; Lieutenant-General, 1860; and Colonel of the 7th Dragoons in 1868. During this period he saw an immense deal of active service. He served with the Army at the Suttlej, was at the capture of Hattas 1817, and during the Mahratta campaign, 1817-18. He was at the siege and capture of Bhurtore, commanded the cavalry in Afghanistan, was present at the forcing of the Kyber Pass, the actions of Teseen and Hafs Kotul, and the occupation of Cabul. In 1845-6 he was with the Suttlej army, and commanded the whole cavalry force at Moodkee, a brigade at Ferozeshah, and the 3rd Light Dragoons at Sobraon, having his charger wounded in each engagement. He served in the Punjab in 1848-9, was present at Ramnugger, Sadoolpore, and at Chillianwallah, in command of cavalry, and has received a medal and clasps. He was made C.B. in 1843, and K.C.B. in 1862. The gallant General was married, in 1816, to a daughter of Major Mylne, of the 24th Light Dragoons.

MR. WM. RATHBONE, OF LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Wm. Rathbone, whose name has for more than half a century been intimately associated with the commercial and political history of Liverpool, died at Greenbank, near Liverpool, on Saturday last, at the ripe age of eighty-one. Mr. Rathbone was one of the genuine "merchant princes" of Liverpool, and in politics he was for upwards of fifty years one of the most energetic members of the Liberal party. He was Mayor in 1836, and for many years he took a prominent position in the government of the town. He was descended from a Quaker family, but early in life he joined the Unitarian body. Mr. Rathbone leaves three sons, all of whom follow in his footsteps both in business and politics.

THE NEW PRESS LAW OF FRANCE.—The following are some of the leading points in the new press law. Preliminary Government authorisation for publishing a newspaper is abolished, the stamp is reduced by one centime on political journals, imprisonment is done away with for press offences, and free liberty is given to establish printing-offices. As a set-off against these ameliorations must be mentioned, first, that the withdrawal of the authorisation in respect of French journals does not apply to foreign newspapers. Whoever introduces a non-authorised foreign paper into France is liable to a penalty of from 5^{fr}. to 5000^{fr}. The caution money for establishing a journal is retained, and stands at a very high figure, no less a sum than 50,000^{fr}. (£2000) being required to be deposited in Paris before a newspaper can be started. While one centime is taken off the stamp duty, the postal stamp of four centimes is retained. Therefore a Parisian journal cannot be delivered in the provinces without the payment of a tax of nine centimes. The result is that the price of the journal would be wholly unremunerative, and could not exist without the revenue from advertisements. A journal with 25,000 subscribers in Paris, and as many in the provinces, pays every morning in advance 1500^{fr}. for its subscribers in Paris and 2500^{fr}. for those in the country. Members of the Senate and the Corps Législatif are now prohibited from signing articles in the journals. But the great hardship of the new measure is the enormous amount of the fines imposed upon offending writers, managers, and printers, varying from 20,000^{fr}. to 80,000^{fr}.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Impure Blood. The glands and solids of the body must be free from impurities for the continuance of health. Holloway's Pills possess wonderful powers for expelling all noxious matters from the system, and thoroughly cleansing and purifying the blood,

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